



OPPORTUNITY WITH DIGNITY

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Merja Paakkonen
Head Teacher

24th May 2019

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and other Stakeholders,

We write to you in relation to the letter sent to you on 29th April 2019. The Governing Board has carefully considered the feedback received from parents/carers and school staff concerning the proposal to finish the school days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 3.15 and on Thursdays at 2 pm.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to write to us to express their concerns and/or support with regards to the proposal. We would also like to reassure you that we have taken into account **all** the views received.

As always, it is our ultimate aim to ensure the delivery of high quality special education for our students, as recognised by Ofsted and other external accreditors. We can only continue delivering and further developing this high quality provision if we have sufficient time for staff training and curriculum development.

The Governing Board, having considered and discussed all views and comments received, have therefore made a decision to change the school hours as proposed. Commencing from the beginning of September 2019, the students school day will end

- Every Thursday at 2 pm.
- Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3.15 pm.

This decision was not made lightly. We noted the impact the change of school hours may have for some of our parents. In recognition of this we will be liaising with some of our stakeholders who may be able to use our school facilities to provide an after school club at school on Thursdays and/or other days.

As you are aware the Governing Boards in many other special needs schools in Hertfordshire have already taken a similar decision and it is likely that the number of these schools will increase. As noted in our previous letter, this is for the very same reasons as at Breakspeare School; staff training needs, lack of INSET time and demands on curriculum and assessment. The DfE regards it as important that schools have the flexibility to decide their own opening and closing times within the legal framework and has given guidance of school hours; this guidance is the same for mainstream and special schools.

The information in this letter has also been sent to our school transport providers, the Local Authority, Mencap, respite providers and our NHS colleagues. We will continue to work together to ensure that there is minimal disruption.

We would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Merja Paakkonen
Head teacher

Jane Rogers
Acting Chair of Governors

