



MacIntyre Academies
Discovery Academy

Putting children and families *first*

21st October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Notice of changes to the school week to families

We recently sought your views about our wish to close school to pupils on Friday afternoons from 1:30 pm, thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to us. From the responses received we had two thirds of respondent in favour of the change and a number who were ambivalent/not sure. I took the results to an extraordinary meeting of our Local Advisory Board (governors) on Tuesday evening and they supported the proposal which was then heard by the MAT trust Board on Thursday 20th October 2022, in line with our schedule of delegation. The MAT Board have also approved the change to our school week.

For a majority, this will be easy to manage and in some cases you have said it might actually help you. I know from previously working through this model, that some families were able to get a head start on weekends away or it helped to do some family activities at cheaper times on a Friday afternoon. That said, I am aware, for some families, especially those with work or care commitments, it may be a disappointment, but we are hoping to help with that where possible.

Some of the questions raised by pupils during the last few weeks were about fixtures, social time and rewards and I want to reassure everyone that we intend to maintain our commitment to fixtures, students will still have reward opportunities and social time will still be made available to pupils. In addition, to support those families who have raised concerns due to their personal circumstances, we will be providing some activities on site for the remainder of this academic year until 3 pm, for a small number of pupils. If you didn't tell us you might need this before through the survey, please fill in the form at this QR Code link by the 4th November 2022, to give us time to plan.



Hold your phone camera up to the QR code and it will take you to the form to complete. If you do not have a camera us this link:

<https://bit.ly/3TGRkxT>

If you are worried about lost learning, please don't be, Friday afternoons are social and reward times at the moment in school. However, if you would like us to look at tutoring online for your child at home on a Friday afternoon, please let us know on the form. We cannot guarantee it, but are happy to use our tutoring fund for families that want to explore this in this way if we are able.

Vernons Lane, Nuneaton, CV11 5SS 024 7710 3370

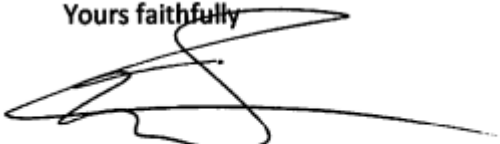
discovery.office@macintyreacademies.org www.thediscoveryacademy.org



It would help immensely with making this provision, if some families are able to pick up their child on those Friday afternoons at 3pm, especially if they currently share taxi's as SEND transport can be tricky to manage for different arrangements as we do not commission it. Please note where we will need to rely on taxi's from the local authority, we will not be able to change arrangements week to week. Therefore, any pupils joining an activity, will be expected to stay with it or will need to be collected by family if suddenly you want your child to leave at 1:30 pm.

We may be able to offer this type of provision longer term (beyond next summer), to existing pupils on our roll, but that will be dependent on the uptake and the budget implications. If you do not request support on Friday afternoons, we will assume you are happy for your child to go home with their peers at 1:30 pm on a Friday. If you do not request it now, but your circumstances change e.g. your working pattern changes, please speak to us and we will always try to help.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Hopkins Hayes', written over a horizontal line.

Emily Hopkins Hayes
Executive Principal