



Harlow Fields School and College

Family Newsletter

22nd March 2024 Issue 10

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term there are so many things to be thankful for. Above all, I am very grateful to our staff who have worked tirelessly to make the experience at Harlow Fields brilliant for our young people. Whilst celebrating World Book Day, Red Nose Day and getting set for Easter fun my staff have been working exceptionally hard on our curriculum developments for the next academic year. Teams have been using feedback from our School and College Council and families in this work too. Governors and Essex County Council colleagues have commented favourably on this work which forms a key part of our School Improvement Plan.

With this in mind, I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day here at Harlow Fields School and College. This proposal is in line with many other Special Educational Needs schools in and around the Essex area.

The proposal is to move to this school day model:

9.10-9.25	Pupils and young people arrive
9.30-10.30	Lessons
10.30-11.00	Break
11.00-12.00	Lessons
12.00-12.45	Lunch *
12.45-1.30	Structured play and social time
1.30-2.50	Lessons
2.50-3.00pm	Pupils and young people depart

In this, we continue to operate a staggered start and finish to facilitate pupil safety and minimise congestion around the school site.

Should the changes be approved, they will be effective from September 2024.

We believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community, and will have a positive effect on your child's education. The benefits to our pupils will include:

- *the school and college road will have less morning traffic and reduced foot flow*
- *HFS&C children can be collected before siblings so less rushed for families at the end of the school day*
- *a later morning start for pupils in transport and our pupils will be back home earlier in the afternoon*
- *that class based teams will have some more time to plan, prepare lessons, resources and the learning environment together*

The information in this letter has also been shared with staff, Governors, A2B (transport) and Essex County Council. We will work together so that there is minimal disruption.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and you may have questions related to your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to share any feedback that you have by sending it directly to my PA, Lucy Jones on Lucy.Jones@harlowfields.essex.sch.uk by 22nd April or by attending our next coffee morning on 22nd April. We will release the results of the consultation by 24th April 2024.

To aid your future planning, I thought it might be helpful to share key dates for 2024-25 with you. Essex County Council Term and Holiday 2024-25 Dates: https://www.essex.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migration_data/files/assets.ctfassets.net/knkzaf64jx5x/7AKQo0PjVvljHVf11QIBvD/e74bd31540fc1e08801d4295545c411c/ECC_School_Term_Dates_2024-2025.pdf

Staff training days (pupils at home):

- 2nd September 2024
- 4th November 2024
- 29th November 2024
- 6th January 2025
- 2nd June 2025
- 28th June 2025

Other key dates:

- 3rd September (6th form induction, am). All other pupils at home. More information to follow closer to the time.
- 4th September (meet the class teacher morning - appointments will be available to speak with class teachers). 6th form: working from home. Information to follow closer to the time.
- 5th September - normal school day for all
- 20th September new pupil induction (all other pupils at home)

End of term (half day for pupils):

- 20th December 2024
- 4th April 2025
- 22nd July 2025



Harlow Fields School & College

SUMMER FAIR!

Organised on behalf of the PTA



With lots of fun and laughter to be had, come and join us for a good cause, to help the students of Harlow Fields School raise funds to access resources!



Stall holders include:

Cake makers, sweet stall, pitch and putt, ice cream man, craft boutique, tombola and many more...





National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society have launched a new e-learning module, A Guide to the Mental Health Experiences of Autistic Teenagers, which is aimed at professionals and parents who are supporting autistic young people aged from 13 to 18 years old.

The aim of the module is to increase understanding of autistic young people's experiences, including their autistic identity, their mental health experiences, and exploring proactive strategies to support them.

The module has three parts, covering:

- Understanding autistic identity
- Understanding the mental health experiences of autistic teenagers
- Proactive support strategies

<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/news/e-learning-module-exploring-the-mental-health>

Some key dates for your diary:

- 28th March - End of term (½ day for pupils)
- 29th March - 12th April: Easter holidays
- 15th April - Summer Term begins

Kindest regards

Kathleen M Faherty

Headteacher

