



**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

11 June 2024

Dear Parents / Carers / Stakeholders

This letter provides three very important communications which are essential reading for all parents/carers that have students attending our Academy both currently and from September 2024.

These include:

- 1. A Proposal for Nunthorpe Academy to join Areté Learning Trust**
- 2. An extraordinary Professional Development Day for staff on 1 July 2024**
- 3. Changes to the timing of the Academy day to an 8.30am start - 1 September 2024**

**1. Proposal for Nunthorpe Academy to join Areté Learning Trust**

As a Board of Trustees, we continually work with the Executive team to consider how we can strengthen our school and Trust, always with our core purpose of providing the very best education for young people firmly in mind.

In recent months we have been carefully considering our options to secure the future of Nunthorpe Academy and ensure that we continue to provide the very best education for our young people, in a way that is sustainable both now and in the future. As an existing Multi-Academy Trust, one option is for us to join with another Trust. This would allow us to become part of a larger and stronger trust and would increase our school improvement capacity, enable greater collaboration and partnership working, support the delivery of high quality and inclusive educational provision, and maximise resources.

I would like to let you know that we have been exploring this sort of opportunity with the Trustees at the Areté Learning Trust, which is a Multi-Academy Trust of nine schools (5 secondary and 4 primary schools). We are confident that there is close alignment between our Trusts, both in terms of the communities we serve and our respective vision and values. Following extensive discussion and due diligence, the Board of Trustees believe that there would be significant benefits to joining Areté Learning Trust.

We are currently in discussions with the Department for Education regarding a merger process, and over the coming weeks we will be consulting more broadly with our stakeholders on this proposal. However, we want to let you know of this exciting proposal and our intentions in advance.

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*Ready, Respectful, Safe*





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2. **An extraordinary Professional Development Day for staff on 1 July 2024**

Apologies for the late announcement of this extraordinary PD Day on Monday 1 July which will mean an additional day off for students. However, it is essential that the communication and planning of the above begins in earnest to ensure a smooth transition for all students and staff and that logistics are considered in an appropriate and timely manner to accommodate this. Thank you in anticipation of your anticipated support in securing the best provision for your child at our Academy.

3. **Changes to the timing of the Academy day to an 8.30am start - 1 September 2024**

As you will all be aware, a consultation was completed during April with all stakeholders. The consultation to change the timings of the Nunthorpe Academy School Day was required as the length of Nunthorpe Academy's current school week falls short of the DfE's statutory requirement from 1.9.24 of 32.5 hours. To be compliant with the new expectation, the Academy school day will need to be 10 minutes longer to meet the minimum requirement. The proposal in the consultation was to start the school day 10 minutes earlier (starting at 8.30am rather than 8.40am) and make period one 70 minutes long rather than 60 minutes. All other timings would remain the same. The additional 10 minutes during period one would be used to deliver age appropriate reciprocal reading.

Following the consultation timeline it has now been agreed to go ahead with the changes and as of 1 September the Academy day will start at 8.30am. Some concerns were raised about bus routes and arrival times to enable this change, however we have received reassurances from North East Arriva UK that their timetables will be amended in readiness for the new academic year.

The present 07.20am service 28A from Middlesbrough will now leave at 07.15am and run as service 28B via Nunthorpe, stopping opposite the Academy at around 07.55am allowing a 08.00am arrival for the Academy breakfast club.

The present 08.08am service 805 from Brambles Farm will leave at 07.58am and run 10 minutes earlier arriving at Swans Corner at 08.12am.

Students will be able to enter the Academy from 8.00am for those requiring breakfast club, further details will be shared in time for September. The gates will open for all students by 8.10am to ensure safe entry and punctuality to lesson start at 8.30am. All students will be expected to be on Academy site by 8.20am.

Further information will follow however, it is essential that this information was shared as early as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Kate Kell  
Head of School

Andrew Tickle  
Chair of Trustees