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Date: 17th January 2025
Our Ref: DGW
Reply to: Mr Williams
At: Waterleat Road Centre

Re: Changes to school calendar and structure of the school day, September 2025+

Dear Parent/Guardian

Parents of pupils in Years 8-11 will be aware that I wrote to you in May of last year with the news that our Trust, The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) would be implementing a common academic calendar across all of the 26 schools within the Trust from September 2025. As I outlined in the May 2024 letter, the following will be in place from September 2025:

- There will be a 2-week October half term.
- There will be set teacher training (or INSET) days across the TSAT schools. These will be non-pupil days.
- The time "lost" in creating a 2-week October half term will be made up through changes in the school day so that no student is disadvantaged through lost learning and, in fact, a greater priority will be given to key examination groups.

In order to ensure that there is no lost learning time to create the second week of the October half term, some schools in the Trust have changed their opening and/or closing times e.g. starting earlier or finishing later. The structure of the school day is left for schools to decide.

I am therefore confirming the following:

- **For Paignton Academy, the school opening time for pupils will remain at 8:30am and end at 3:00pm. There is no change.**
- In order to not change the start and end time of school, break time will be 20 minutes and lunchtime 30 minutes. This will still provide more than enough time for all pupils to have food and refreshments during these times.
- In order to provide pupils with greater time for assemblies and our key tutor time activities, tutor time (which will be renamed as period 1) will be extended to 40 minutes. During this time, Year 11 pupils will be given intervention/additional support in English and Maths when they are not in assemblies.

I am including with this letter, the structure of our school day from September 2025 onwards. The 2025-2026 calendar, which includes the two-week October half term, can be viewed on our website by following the link: [pa_term_dates_2526.pdf](#)

With best wishes,
D Williams

Principal