

Changes to the School Day

Following consultation with staff, students and parents the Governors have agreed to make the following changes to the school day with effect from 31st August 2010:

1. There will be no change to the times for morning school.

It has been suggested that morning break should be reduced from 15 minutes to 10 minutes but the consultation revealed that most staff were not in favour of this change so the morning break will continue to be 15 minutes long.

2. Lunchtime will be reduced to 45 minutes, start at 12.15 p.m.

The consultation showed that there was much support for this and also some concerns. The main concern is whether this will allow sufficient time for pupils to have their lunch. There are plans to change the way in which the various year groups go into the cafeteria. The biometric system has speeded up the flow of pupils through the cafeteria and the experience of a reduced lunch break when we had snow suggests that there will be sufficient time for all pupils to have lunch. The Governors are in the process of setting up a Cafeteria Consumer Group and this group will be asked to monitor the situation next term.

3. There will be no Form Registration in the afternoon, pupils will go directly to Period 4 at 1.00 p.m.

The consultation showed that some parents were concerned that this meant that pupils were not registered in the afternoon. This is not the case. Each subject teacher will take a register of their class at the start of Period 4 and this information will be sent electronically to Pupil Support Assistants and will be recorded on our central registers. This system was also used during the snowy weather and worked well.

4. School will finish at 3.05 p.m. rather than 3.25 p.m.

Again, some parents were concerned about child care arrangements if school finishes at this time. The school will provide an "After School Club" for any children who are faced with travel or family problems because of an earlier finish. Pupils will be able to stay at school until at least 4.00 p.m. and be supervised at no cost to parents.

The new timings of the school day from 31st August 2010 are as follows:

SCHOOL DAY

8.45 – 8.55	Registration / Assembly
8.55 – 9.55	Period 1
10.00 – 11.00	Period 2
11.00 – 11.15	Morning Break
11.15 – 12.15	Period 3
12.15 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00 – 2.00	Period 4
2.05 – 3.05	Period 5
3.05	End of school

We will monitor and review the new school day next term and we will consult staff, students and parents on their views before Christmas once the new timings have been in place for the major part of the term.

Reasons for the change

Following the changes we made to the timings of the day during the severe weather last winter, a surprising number of staff and students said that they preferred the shorter day and would like it to be considered as a permanent change.

We believe that the shorter lunch period will give pupils time to have lunch without giving them so much time waiting around or getting bored which many pupils told us happens now.

The afternoon Form registration causes a great deal of movement around the school site at the start of the afternoon. Pupils go first to their form bases and then, after 5 minutes to Period 4 often in a different wing. With our electronic registration system there is no longer a need for pupils to be registered in Form groups.

The earlier finish will suit some parents and help when collecting children from primary schools. For those who would find our early finish a problem we will provide an "After School Club".

The earlier finish will reduce the number of days when children have to travel home in the dark during winter. It will help with after school sports fixtures which will have more day light time. It will make collaborative ventures with other schools easier, many secondary schools already finish their day earlier than us and this can cause problems. It will improve our collaboration with primary schools, particularly the support our science staff can offer them.

These changes do not mean that any teaching time is reduced.