

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important Information regarding timings of the school Day from September 2019

I am writing to inform you of an exciting **change to our curriculum for the next academic year** from September 2019. Although you may feel this communication is early, it is important that you are aware as **this affects the timings of the school day**, which may have implications for your family routines.

Time	Activity	Minutes
08:30-09:00	Breakfast Club (Optional)	30
09:00	Start of School Day	-
09:00-09:15	Morning Prep	15
09:15-10:30	Period 1	75
10:30-10:45	Break	15
10:45-12:00	Period 2	75
12:00-12:40	Lunch	40
12:40-13:55	Period 3	75
13:55-14:10	Break	15
14:10-15:25	Period 4	75
15:25	End of School Day	-
15:25-16:00	Afternoon Prep (Directed pupils only)	25

As is always the case, every decision that we make is in the best interest of our pupils and is intended to improve their educational experience and academic progress. I would, however, like to share with you a brief rationale for this development.

Firstly, the school day will begin at a later time, based on research showing that this better suits the teenage biological clock. School will continue to be open from 8am for pupils arriving earlier, with the library available and breakfast club open from 8:30am.

Pupils will still receive five hours of teaching in a day as is currently the case, but lessons will be extended to 75 minutes each. We welcome this additional time to allow lessons to include regular review of previous learning at the beginning of each lesson and additional time to deepen understanding and master topics.

You will notice that this reduces the number of subjects your child will study within a day. Recent cognitive science has shown that pupils can be overloaded with too much information leading to less academic progress, so this will also be beneficial.

Following each lesson pupils will have a break, which will allow them mental and evaluative space to prepare for the next lesson. You will also notice that lunch is now earlier in the day, following feedback from pupils, allowing them to be appropriately fuelled for learning in the afternoon.

School will finish **at the later time of 3:25pm for most pupils**. Extra-curricular activities will still be available as currently, with timings published at a later date. For those pupils directed to Afternoon Prep, this will finish no later than 4pm.

We recognise that this may inconvenience some parents, but we anticipate that you will support this, understanding that the benefits will enhance the learning and wellbeing of our pupils.

Kind regards,

Mark Scholtes

Senior Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum Lead