

12<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### The School Day – Response to Consultation

Firstly, can I thank all of the parents who contributed to the consultation process regarding the proposed changes to the school day. The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposed changes to the school day, but there were a number that raised questions or concerns. We have taken on board every comment that has been made throughout the consultation, and in direct response to your feedback, have made some changes, which are shown below.

The single strongest feedback point was about how early break and lunch would be, and how long the afternoons would feel, so in response to this, we have moved everything back one period.

#### Original Proposal

8.45	Parade / Tutor / Assembly		Same
9.05	Lesson 1		Same
9.55	Lesson 2 & Break (Split)	Half Cohort A 9.55 Break / 10.15 Lesson 2 Half Cohort B 9.55 Lesson 2 / 10.45 Break	Break is still 20 mins, but split
11.05	Lesson 3		Same
11.55	Lesson 4 & Lunch	Half Cohort A 11.55 Lunch / 12.30 Lesson 4 Half Cohort B 11.55 Lesson 4 / 12.45 Lunch	Lunch is reduced to 35 mins
1.20	Lesson 5		Same but earlier
2.10	Lesson 6		Same but earlier
3.00	End of Lessons	Enrichment / Extra Curricular	Finish earlier
5.00	Academy closes to Students		

#### New School Day following Consultation

8.45	Parade / Tutor / Assembly		Same
9.05	Lesson 1		Same
9.55	Lesson 2		Same
10.45	Lesson 3 & Break (Split)	Half Cohort A 10.45 Break / 11.05 Lesson 3 Half Cohort B 10.45 Lesson 3 / 11.35 Break	Break is still 20 mins, but split
11.55	Lesson 4		Same
12.45	Lesson 5 & Lunch	Half Cohort A 12.45 Lunch / 1.20 Lesson 5 Half Cohort B 12.45 Lesson 5 / 1.35 Lunch	Lunch is reduced to 35 mins
2.10	Lesson 6		Same but earlier
3.00	End of Lessons	Enrichment / Extra Curricular	Finish earlier
5.00	Academy closes to Students		

I am unable to reply individually to every respondent in the consultation, but I will attempt to address the main questions and concerns that were raised, see overleaf.

Mrs Keaney  
Principal

VAT Number: 1158112 43

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**Q. How will the split be decided, will students be able to still have lunch and break with their friends?**

A. The split will be decided by subjects and floors, so will be different each day, ensuring first and second sittings are spread among houses and year groups.

**Q. Will lessons be disturbed by other students who are on break and lunch?**

A. We have tested the Technology rooms, which are the only teaching space adjacent to the dining room, and they have very good sound insulation. Other floors will be unaffected, as students will not be accessing teaching floors when on break or lunch.

**Q. Will 35 minutes be enough time for lunch?**

A. We have been monitoring the lunch break for many months now, and even with the current numbers, lunch can be managed in 35 minutes. Most SPTA schools only have 30 minute lunch breaks.

**Q. Rather than making the day shorter, why don't you make the lessons longer?**

A. There are teacher terms and conditions that only allow for 5 hours teaching per day. We can alter the length and number of lessons, but we cannot exceed the 5 hours, hence keeping 6 x 50 minute lessons.

**Q. Will there still be enough enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities?**

A. 35 minutes will not facilitate any lunchtime clubs (except the LRC), but the earlier finish to the day should make it even easier for students to stay to after school clubs, of which there are many.  
The LRC will also remain open until 5.00pm every day for students to access computers, do homework or play board games.

**Q. What will be the benefit of having split breaks and lunch times?**

A. By splitting break and lunch times, this will reduce the number of students accessing the servery, so boys will be served much more quickly and spend less time in queues. This will also give students more space to play in.

**Q. If you are having to make these changes to reduce congestion, is the building safe for even more students?**

A. The building is perfectly safe. It meets the size and space for us to expand to 600 students. We are making these changes so that students do not spend much of their break times standing in queues. This is being done to try and improve the quality of break and lunch times.

**Q. Will all students have time to eat properly?**

A. There is a breakfast menu on offer from 8.00am and there is an extensive menu available at break times. There are both hot and cold options available at lunchtime each day. All of the students therefore do have plenty of opportunities to access a wide variety of good choices daily, and plenty of time to do this.

**Q. Will any students still be allowed off site at lunchtime?**

A. Officers in Years 10 and 11 will be allowed off site at lunchtime as a privilege of rank, but all other students will be remaining on site.