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Changes to the School Day Timings & Standards

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we continuously strive to provide the best possible environment for our students to thrive, we are writing to update you on some important adjustments to our school day timings, lunchtime arrangements, and behavioral expectations.

These changes are designed to elevate our school standards, maximise learning time, and deliver an exceptional pastoral experience.

1. Raising Standards & Personal Development

Recently, we have noticed that a minority of students are not meeting our high school expectations. To address this directly and proactively, we are implementing the following changes:

Enhanced Personal Development: We are restructuring our day to allow for a longer form time. This dedicated slot will focus on delivering a high-quality personal development program, ensuring our students build the character, resilience, and skills needed for the future.

Rigorous Morning & Afternoon Checks: We have extended both Period 1 and Period 4. This additional time will be used daily by staff to conduct thorough, consistent checks on uniform, mobile phones, and jewelry.

We appreciate your full support in ensuring your child arrives at school fully compliant with our uniform and equipment expectations.

2. Optimised Lunchtime Structure & Raising Standards

Since September, we have been piloting and testing various approaches to optimise our lunchtime arrangements and significantly improve the student experience. Thanks to this rigorous testing, we have successfully implemented several major upgrades to our facilities:

Efficient Queuing: In January we developed a streamlined system to get students through the lines much faster. We installed barriers to help control queues.



Increased Capacity: In January we opened up the mezzanine floor so Year 11 students could eat upstairs. This has been highly successful and therefore we will continue with this from September with the addition of Year 12 using this space also.

Upgraded Technology: Updated our cashless till systems to significantly speed up transaction and waiting time. We will be introducing biometrics from September.

Better Food Availability: Increased daily food-availability levels to guarantee that all students have equal, fair access to the menu of their choice throughout the period.

We have been incredibly impressed by how readily our students adapted to these modified arrangements, and we are grateful for their patience and understanding during this testing phase.

The New Split-Lunch and Form Time System

Because our new dining systems are now running so efficiently, we are in a position to operate a shorter, more structured 30-minute lunchtime. Crucially, we are moving away from our previous model where lunch periods overlapped with active teaching. Instead, we are introducing a synchronised, dual-block system where all students will have a dedicated 30-minute lunch and a 30-minute Form Time/Assembly block.

To ensure a smooth transition, the school will be split cleanly into two groups:

Block A: 3 year groups will eat lunch, while the other 3 year groups are in Form Time or Assemblies.

Block B: The groups will then swap for the second half of the period.

Why are we making this change?

Zero Learning Disruptions: Because lunch no longer overlaps with teaching, all students across the school will be in lessons at the exact same time. This entirely eliminates corridor noise and distractions while classes are underway.

Targeted Academic Support: With teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs) completely free from lesson delivery during these blocks, they will now be readily available to provide crucial extra revision sessions and targeted interventions for students who need additional support.

3. Bus Travel & School Start Times

Our priority remains ensuring that students can commute safely. As previously communicated, the school day will still finish at its normal time of 3:10 PM so students do not miss public or school bus connections.

Timings of the School Day

Please see the table below detailing the structure of the day for both the upcoming summer term and the start of the new academic year.

Period / Session	June to July	From September (Permanent Structure)	Focus / Activity
School Starts / Form Time	8:40 AM	8:40 AM (Period 1)	Lesson
Period 1	8.50 - 9.50	8.40 -9.45	Lesson + Uniform, Phone & Jewelry Checks
Period 2	9.50 - 10.50	9.45 - 10.45	Lesson
Break	10.5 - 11.10	10.45 - 11.05	Morning Break
Period 3	11.10 - 12.10	11.05 - 12.05	Lesson
Lunch 1	Years 7,8,11 12.10 - 12.50 Lesson 4a	Years 7,9,11 12.05 - 12.35	Streamlined Dining 12.05 - 12.35 followed by Form Time 12.35 - 1.05
Lunch 2	Years 9, 10 1.10- 1.50 Lesson 4b	Years 8, 10, 12 12.35 - 1.05	Form Time 12.05 - 12.35 followed by Lunch 12.35 - 1.05
Period 4	During the lunch cross over	1.05 - 2.10	Lesson + Afternoon Standards Check
Period 5	1.50 -2.50	2.10 - 3.10	Final Lesson
Form Time	2.50 - 3.10	Moved to the lunch Form time	No longer exists
School Dismissal	3:10 PM	3:10 PM	Safe Bus & Travel Window

As part of the changes to the school day being introduced from September, we will closely monitor how the new arrangements are working in practice. To ensure the changes run smoothly and continue to meet the needs of our pupils, staff, and families, the revised school day will be reviewed every two weeks during the initial implementation period. Feedback and observations will help us make any necessary adjustments and support a successful transition for everyone.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul Brockwell
Executive Principal

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lorna Pountney
Head of School