



Fulford School

Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4FY
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Headteacher: Ms. L. Savage, BA, NPQH
Deputies: Mr D. Bodey BSc, Mr. T. Johnson, BA

17 September 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Revision to the timings of the school day

I am contacting you to inform you of our plans to alter the timings of the school day with effect from Monday 5th September 2016. The proposed new timings are given below along with the rationale for this change and details of how the consultation and decision making process relating to this will operate.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Activity	Current Timings	Activity	Proposed Timings
Period 1	8.35-9.35	Period 1	8.50-9.50
Break	9.35-9.50		
Period 2	9.50- 10.50	Period 2	9.50-10.50
Break	10.50 -11.05	Break	10.50-11.10
Period 3	11.05-12.05	Period 3	11.10-12.10
Period 4	12.10-13.10	Period 4	12.10-13.10
Lunch	13.10 -14.10	Lunch	13.10-13.55
Registration	14.10-14.30	Registration	13.55-14.15
Period 5	14.30-15.30	Period 5	14.15-15.15

In making this change we have maintained the current 25 one hour subject lessons thus keeping our current teaching pattern and existing level of contact time. We have located the bulk of the teaching time in the morning to maximise the learning focus of our students and to ensure that this change will sustain the high standards of achievement evident within our school. Our new Sports Hall means we no longer need to travel to and from the university which was the reason for our two break structure in the morning. In line with this we are now moving to a single morning break. Crucially, the next phase of our building work, with the redesign and expansion of the canteen, will allow us to reduce the length of the lunch break which will improve the lunchtime experience of our students given our lack of indoor social space to use in bad weather. We will work to ensure an effective system of early lunch passes in order to support the continuation of our lunchtime activities as we very much wish to maintain the strength of our extra-curricular offer.

While the reasons outlined above and the later start and earlier finish will benefit and be popular with students in all age groups, the major reason for this change relates to our desire to maintain and improve our Sixth Form offer.

As you may be aware, funding for post-16 provision has decreased significantly in recent years which has made it increasingly difficult for post-16 providers, and especially school Sixth Forms, to maintain their post-16 course offer. In the light of this, Sixth Form providers are increasingly looking to collaborate to gain economies of scale, develop their provision and to ensure they are able to offer the best choices and gain the best outcomes for their students. In the context of this, Fulford School has begun to develop partnership provision with Archbishop Holgate's School where the two outstanding post-16 providers are now working together for the mutual benefit of our students.



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While small scale collaboration has begun in the 2015/16 academic years, it has become apparent to both schools that the timings of the school day in both institutions must be harmonised to develop this partnership work and to optimise the benefits this offers to our students. The need to establish joint teaching blocks across both schools and to build in transfer times between both institutions is also a factor in determining the timings and shape of the day outlined above.

Our governing body and our leadership team are keen to build on the exciting opportunities that collaboration between the two schools can offer and are therefore supportive of this change. As I mentioned earlier, work has already begun in sharing our post-16 provision and we are also collaborating closely on CPD work to improve standards of learning and teaching in both schools. Given this, an alignment of our session times is the next logical step in our co-operation.

We are consulting with parents, staff, local schools and the local authority on our proposals to change the school day given the potential impact of this change. The responses to this proposal will then be considered prior to the final decision being made. Please send any response you wish to make to Jade Mountain at office@fulford.york.sch.uk by Friday 23rd October.

Please be assured that this change is rooted in our desire to ensure the best opportunities and outcomes for the students within our school community.

Yours faithfully,

Lorna Savage
Headteacher