

27th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation Regarding the Proposal to Change the Start and Finish Times of the School Day from September 2019

On 25th March 2019, the school has formally started the process of working towards changing the start and finish times of the school day from **September 2019**. We would like to seek the views of parents during a consultation period which will end on Wednesday 24th April 2019.

Why are we proposing this?

To support the improvement of Teaching and Learning at The Ferrers School, we wish to adopt 60-minute lessons instead of 50-minute lessons. This will maximise student learning whilst minimising unnecessary movement around the site in which learning time is wasted.

Students learn best earlier in the day and to maximise this ‘prime learning time’ our proposed day will start slightly earlier and finish earlier.

The reduction in length of the school day would be bought about due to our wish to reduce but retain our lunchtime period. We truly value the opportunities that a lunchbreak brings for our students: we have a range of enrichment opportunities on offer, we run revision and intervention sessions and it provides an opportunity for those who wish to do so to play and mix informally with their peers. We want to maintain all of this and believe we can do so with a 40-minute lunch period.

Our current and proposed revised structure is detailed below:

| Current | |
|---------------|--|
| 8.15 | Breakfast Club |
| 8.47 | Warning bell for Lesson 1 |
| 8.50 - 9.40 | Lesson 1 and AM Registration |
| 9.40 - 10.30 | Lesson 2 |
| 10.30 - 10.50 | Break time |
| 10.50 - 11.40 | Lesson 3 |
| 11.40 - 12.30 | Lesson 4 |
| 12.30 - 1.20 | Lunch time |
| 1.20 - 2.10 | Lesson 5 and PM Registration |
| 2.10 - 3.00 | Lesson 6 |
| 3.00 - 3.25 | Tutor Time (Year Group assembly) |
| 3.25 | End of day |
| 3.25 - 4.25 | Homework Club, Extra-Curricular Activities, Intervention |

| Proposed | |
|---------------|--|
| 8.15 | Breakfast Club |
| 8.43 | Warning bell for Lesson 1 |
| 8.45 - 9.45 | Lesson 1 and AM Registration |
| 9.45 - 10.45 | Lesson 2 |
| 10.45 - 11.05 | Break time |
| 11.05 - 12.05 | Lesson 3 |
| 12.05 - 1.05 | Lesson 4 |
| 1.05 - 1.45 | Lunch time |
| 1.45 - 2.05 | Tutor Time & PM Reg (Assembly) |
| 2.05 - 3.05 | Lesson 5 |
| 3.05 | End of Day |
| 3.05 - 4.15 | Session 6 (Homework Club, Extra-Curricular Activities, Intervention) |



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What are the advantages to re-shaping the school day?

- Better use is made of 'prime learning time' earlier in the day
- Extra-Curricular activities start earlier and finish earlier, which is particularly advantageous for PE clubs in the winter months as it reduces the need for students to miss afternoon lessons to travel to inter-school fixtures. This will support student achievement and progress without reducing the enrichment opportunities for students.
- Session 6 activities for intervention, revision and exam preparation can begin and end earlier when students are not as tired.
- There will be more opportunities for other extra-curricular activities after the 'official' school time ends.

What are the implications of changing the timings of the day?

- Students and Parents/Carers may need to adjust their morning domestic/professional routines to arrive slightly earlier.
- Students and Parents/Carers may need to adjust their afterschool arrangements for those not taking part in Session 6 activities, Homework Club or Extra-Curricular Activities.
- The catering provision will require adjustments to their schedule.

Implications for Parents/Carers

We recognise that some Parents/Carers will be dependent upon the school day to facilitate their own working routines. However, our primary objective is to provide the best education we can for our students and to take action that we believe will support them to maximise their potential at school.

Feedback is welcome on this proposal during the consultation period which opens on Wednesday 27th March 2019 and closes at 3 pm on Wednesday 24th April 2019.

Responses can be submitted by:

Email to mail@theferrers.org with the subject title 'Consultation on Timings of the Day September 2019'

Or by letter to
Mrs Angela Smith
The Ferrers School
Queensway
Higham Ferrers
Northamptonshire
NN10 8LF

Please note that 'Nil responses' will be interpreted as 'supportive'. Anonymous responses will not be counted.

Following the consultation period, notification will be given to the parents, carers and students early in Term 5 as to whether the school will implement this change.

We thank you in advance for your consideration on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Angela Smith
Head Teacher