



Parent and Carer letter

10th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you as part of the consultation process to make changes to the school day. This is a requirement if the start or end of the school day is changing. The changes, alongside the rationale for changes and timescales, are set out below. We would like to take on board your views before any changes are put in place for September 2022 and consider all options.

In summary, the proposal seeks to ensure:

1. One lunch service with set serving times for each year group.
2. A finish time that is different to the current one, meaning all lessons are of equal length, and still allowing time at the end of the day for session six and extra-curricular activities and clubs to take place.
3. Period 4, which is currently only 40 minutes long (which was a temporary measure from September 2021 to allow a split lunch system), will be replaced, with all lessons being of equal length.
4. The extended morning tutor period will allow the full tutor experience for all students, with time to prepare for the learning day.
5. A longer, single lunch will allow the return of extra-curricular activities taking place during the lunch time break.

Rationale

The current school day does not give equal time to all periods or give valuable tutor time, due to the lunch period and the fact that the school day finishes early.

Currently, half of the school has lunch while the other half is in lessons. The previous lunch break of 35 minutes for all students (before Covid) meant long queues for students and relied on many students purchasing food at break time for lunch time. The new system will allow everyone to be able to get food, with time to eat, and without long queues of up to 30 minutes.

This model ensures all students get served at set times, and fewer students having lunch at the same time allows everyone to have space to eat either inside or outside, depending on the weather. The main change is to allow all subjects and lessons to have the appropriate learning time, and all lessons to be of equal length, regardless of the time of the day. We have invested heavily in extending the dining hall and upgrading our outdoor eating areas to ensure everyone can enjoy lunch.

The tutor period will be extended to allow the group to register, hear any information to be shared, and for assemblies to be of a length which allows an extended learning experience to be enjoyed. It will also ensure the pastoral team have time to deal with any issues which have occurred the previous day or overnight without disrupting the students' learning in lesson time. Vulnerable students will be able to meet with their learning mentor, or any external agencies supporting them, to prepare them for the school day ahead. Furthermore, it gives time for the school to reinforce key expectations, about uniform and coming to school equipped correctly, at the start of the day rather than during lesson time. It also allows for the arrival of any late coaches (which is out of our control) to not affect the learning day.

In addition, aligning our end of day with many other schools may help with the arrangement of sporting fixtures.

Coaches

We will discuss this with the coach companies, but we are confident that they will be able to accommodate these changes from September 2022, and this will form part of our consultation.

Current timings of the day for students

Period	Start	End	Duration
TUTOR	08.50	09.00	10min
P1	09.00	10.05	1h_5min
P2	10.05	11.10	1h_5min
Break	11.10	11.30	20min
P3	11.30	12.35	1h_5min
P4a (KS3 lunch)	12.35	13.15	40min
P4b (KS4/5 lunch)	13.15	13.55	40min
P5	13.55	15.00	1h_5min
Session 6	15.00	16.00	(1hr)
Teaching total			5h_0min

Proposed timings of the day for students

Period	Start	End	Duration
TUTOR	08.40	09.10	30min
P1	09.10	10.10	1h
P2	10.10	11.10	1h
Break	11.10	11.30	20min
P3	11.30	12.30	1h
P4	12:30	13:30	1h
<i>(Year 7 early start for lunch)</i>	<i>13.20</i>	<i>14.20</i>	<i>60min</i>
Lunch	13.30	14.20	50min
P5	14.20	15.20	1h
Session 6	15.20	16.20	(1hr)
Teaching total			5h_0min

Consultation Arrangements

The Scheme of Delegation (available on the school website) states that the Trustees are consulted on any proposed changes to the school day. Under the Scheme of Delegation, it is for the school's leadership team to make the decision on any proposed changes to the timings of the school.

Alongside the consultation with parents and carers, there will also be consultation with Trustees, students and staff.

The decision will consider the views from the consultation, alongside the main aims of the ensuring the best educational experience for all students and enabling the school to offer the very best learning for all subjects, as well as meeting the statutory requirement of a minimum of 25 hours of learning per week for all students.

If you would like to share your views, please send your response to info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk Please add "School Day Response" to your heading to ensure it is directed to the consultation.

The consultation period will end at 12pm on Friday 10th December 2021. We will consider the comments and then let everyone know the outcome in January 2022. Any changes will come into force from September 2022.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms M King', written in a cursive style.

Ms M King

Headteacher