

Consultation – Timings of the school day

... and a few other things ...

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Dear Parents/Carers

Mr. T. Chamberlin BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

I am writing to you to seek your views on some proposed changes to timings of our school day. The school leadership team and governing body have been conducting a review of how we use the time we have with our students each day and are keen to alter our timings to maximise the impact of teaching and learning and reduce the amount of unstructured time students have. Our initial proposals are as follows:

	KS3 and 4	6 th Form
08:30 – 08:35	Student arrive on site	
08:35 – 08:55	Registration 1	
08:55 – 09:55	Period 1	
09:55 – 10:55	Period 2	
10:55 – 11:10	Break	
11:10 – 12:10	Period 3	
12:10 – 13:10	Period 4	12:10 – 12:40 Lunch
13:10 – 13:40	Lunch	12:40 Period 4
13:40 – 14:40	Period 5	13:40 Period 5
14:40 – 14:50	Registration 2	
14:50	End of school.	
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 14:50 – 15:20	After school sessions including interventions, homework clubs, Sports, Performing Arts	

As parents/carers will see the main changes are that the school day will begin 10 minutes earlier at 8:30am; we will teach 4 lessons before lunch at 13:10pm and one lesson after lunch; lunchtime is shortened to 30 minutes and the school day will officially finish at 14:50pm - 20 minutes earlier than it does currently.

There is well documented research that supports the fact that students learn more effectively before lunch which drives our suggestion to make this change. At lunchtime our serveries have finished selling food and are shutting down well within the first 30 minutes of our current lunchtimes and we believe this can be made even more efficient working with the canteen. Our lack of internal communal space means that we don't have enough room for our students to sit down and eat their lunch and that students are often bored during the last 20 minutes of lunchtime as they have nowhere to go. We are exploring solutions to this problem which I am keen to remedy – reducing the time that this is the case will also help us and reduce the restlessness that sometimes exists at lunchtime (particularly during the winter months when our outside space is unavailable).

Whilst the school day would formally finish at 14:50pm and the great majority of our students would go home at this time, we will be offering targeted students intervention support, homework support and, when necessary dealing with any behaviour issues immediately after the school day between 14:50 and 15:20pm. Students will be with their tutors for the last 10 minutes of the day (as described above) and will stay with them or be directed to support/extra curricular activities at this time. Sports clubs and performing arts activities will also feature here. Parents would be notified of any compulsory sessions and our requirement for students to be staying in school in advance.

It would be our intention to leave school transport running as it does this year e.g. leaving school at 3:30pm meaning that students who use this transport can be included in the after school sessions that we run. Those not involved in after school activities will be supervised.

I would be keen to hear from parents/carers about your thoughts on these proposed changes – both things that you are in favour of and any concerns that you might have. Any thoughts will be taken into consideration and I will inform you of the outcomes of this consultation in the early part of the next half term. You can do this via email to Headteacher@cttc.staffs.sch.uk – please include the word ‘Consultation’ in the subject line - by Friday 22nd June 2018.

As I am writing to you I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of a few other things.

We continue to have considerable problems with girls’ uniform and despite my best efforts to ask our girls’ to support our uniform policy far too many are not wearing appropriate length skirts or school trousers preferring leggings etc. As I have made clear to the students on several occasions, if this persists I will be forced to review girls’ uniform – I now find myself at this point. Wearing incorrect uniform causes tension and stress in school and does not promote the cooperative and happy environment that I am so keen to encourage. I will send more details to parents regarding what will be a phased transition to a new girls’ uniform in my next letter. I will not ask for an immediate change but look to set a date in the future by which time all girls’ will be wearing a specific badged skirt or trousers that will be available from our uniform suppliers. This does bring us in line with other schools in our area.

Whilst on the subject of uniform, can I please remind parents/carers that hoodies with names printed on the back are being phased out this year. From September 2018 these will not be allowed in school. Names on the back of clothing presents a safeguarding risk, particularly on the way to and from school.

I hope parents/carers are enjoying using our ‘Show My Homework’ facility. Our records show that many parents/carers have not logged onto this system or used the free app that is available for smartphones. Please ensure that you are on this system as it will be our principal method of communication with home in the future. As parents/carers will know all schools are struggling with budget cuts and this system reduces our communication costs massively. If you are unsure how to sign up please see details on our website.

Please can I remind parent/carers who use our main carpark that there is a one way system in place – turn right immediately on entry to the carpark – and that cars must be parked in marked spaces. Parents/carers collecting or dropping off their children should not do this in our roadways. I have had reports of a couple of instances recently when roadways have been blocked and traffic and pedestrian flow impeded. Thank you for your support with this.