

Sale High School change to school day consultation comments and responses

Comments 1:

*That's all fine aside from the very late lunch break. On occasion my daughter is late with a break detention sometimes if up late on occasion and not for want of trying she has no breakfast. 13.20 pm is a very late lunch break if she can't get any food beforehand. Think it's pretty late already also but this is a concern for me. I have tried packed lunches etc etc my daughter eats very little in school anyway!
That's my only comment.*

Response 1:

Thank you for your response to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

I have outlined your concern and responded below:

- *The lunch time is late*
 - With the proposed change, the time of lunch will be 10 minutes earlier than the current later lunch, which your daughter would have been moving onto as she joins year 9.
 - We have tried to spread the breaks out so that students have a sensible amount of time between lessons and breaks.
 - Due to Year 11 having a period 6 lesson, we felt that having lunch between period 3 and 4 would leave too long an afternoon for the students. However, we are planning to have a summer timetable, where we move the whole school to lunch between period 3 and 4 from just after Easter, as Year 11 will stop Period 6 sessions as they move closer to exams.
- *Your daughter is not able to get food until lunch if she has a late detention*
 - The inconvenience of the late detention at break is supposed deter students from arriving late to school. Hopefully this will help your daughter to see the benefits of arriving on time to school.
 - I would be happy to ask your daughters head of year to meet with her to try and help with organisation in a morning

Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers

Comments 2:

I have received the email regarding the proposed changes and would like to provide some feedback. I am aware that the dining room is currently too small for the amount of students in the school, this was mentioned at the United Learning presentation that I attended some time ago. My son is in year 9 and has said to me for some time that he spends his break time queuing for food and this is now going to be 5 minutes shorter, which will make the chance of him getting food less. He brings a sandwich to school everyday but likes to buy food to add to it. 13.20 is very late for children to be eating especially as some of them will have had breakfast as early as 7.30, to wait 6 hours for their next meal seems a bit unfair. Could it be considered to have lunch time between periods 3 and 4? Rather than it being almost at the end of the school day. Will there be any more facilities for the children to buy food so that they don't have to all queue at the same time?

Response 2:

Thank you for your response to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

I have outlined your concern and responded below:

- *Your son spends much of break time queueing for food, will there be any more facilities for the children to buy food?*
 - We have created additional capacity by opening an extra service hatch at break and lunch that serves mainly sandwiches, drinks and snacks. This has helped to reduce the queues and made them more manageable
 - We are also adding additional till points in the canteen and reconfiguring the service areas to speed up the service
 - We will also be introducing 2 sittings at lunch time to limit the amount of time students are waiting in a queue. This means that 2 year groups will go straight away to line up and 2 year groups queue from half way through lunch.
 - We are reviewing and will be promoting the menu to allow students to decide in advance what they would like to eat
- *13.20 is late for students to be eating*
 - We have tried to spread the breaks out so that students have a sensible amount of time between lessons and breaks.
 - Due to Year 11 having a period 6 lesson, we felt that having lunch between period 3 and 4 would leave too long an afternoon for the students. However, we are planning to have a summer timetable, where we move the whole school to lunch between period 3 and 4 from just after Easter, as Year 11 will stop Period 6 sessions as they move closer to exams.
 - With the proposed change, the time of lunch will be 10 minutes earlier than the current later lunch

As Year 11 have now finished their exams, we are trialling one lunch for the remainder of the term. We have put all of the above changes in place to test out their effectiveness and to give us a chance to iron out any issues before the start of the next academic year. The lunch is aiming to replicate how it will work in September, with 2 sittings for the 4 year groups using the 2 canteens. From September, we will use the hall for our new Year 7, so this won't impact the 2 canteens.

So far, we have found:

- On the vast majority of days we have been able to get all students served within the first 25 minutes of lunch.
- By using 2 sittings, on average, students are spending between 5 and 8 minutes queueing.
- With this in mind, especially with the additional 10 minutes in September, we feel confident that we can keep queueing times low, enabling students to have time to eat, use the toilets and access clubs or enjoy a good amount of free time.

Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers

Comments 3:

Regarding starting 5 minutes earlier, has there been any communication with the School bus company(ies)?

Response 3:

Thank you for your response to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

I have outlined your concern and responded below:

- *Has there been any communication with the school bus company?*
 - Yes, we have communicated with the bus company and they have responded to confirm that change in time would be fine.

Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers

Comments 4:

I am concerned that the children will not get a chance to purchase and eat food in such a short lunch period when the entire school will be going at the same time. My daughter already struggles to get food at lunch times and often there is no food left when she does finally get through the queue.

Can you offer reassurances that there will be additional food available and locations for students to obtain this and what recourse is there for students who do not get to eat during the incredibly short lunch break? I went to a similar size school and we had over an hour each day for lunch which was what was needed for the number of students needing to be served and to eat.

Response 4:

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Can you offer reassurances that there will be additional food available and locations for students to obtain this and what recourse is there for students who do not get to eat during this incredibly short lunch break

- We have created additional capacity by opening an extra service hatch at break and lunch that serves mainly sandwiches, drinks and snacks. This has helped to reduce the queues and made them more manageable
- We are adding additional till points in the canteen and reconfiguring the service areas to speed up the service
- We will be introducing 2 sittings at lunch time to limit the amount of time students are waiting in a queue. This means that 2 year groups will go straight away to line up and 2 year groups queue from half way through lunch.
- We are reviewing and will be promoting the menu to allow students to decide in advance what they would like to eat
- We are also opening additional toilets due to the increase in available duty staff
- If there is an occasion where service is delayed resulting in students being served late, we will allow them time to finish eating before asking them to move to their next lesson

As Year 11 have now finished their exams, we are trialling one lunch for the remainder of the term. We have put all of the above changes in place to test out their effectiveness and

to give us a chance to iron out any issues before the start of the next academic year. The lunch is aiming to replicate how it will work in September, with 2 sittings for the 4 year groups using the 2 canteens. From September, we will use the hall for our new Year 7, so this won't impact the 2 canteens.

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Mr Rogers

Comments 5:

The children are both concerned with the queuing times and not having enough time to queue and eat with these proposed changes. They already say lunchtime is a rush and you either miss out at the back of the queue or are not left with enough time to eat. Same with the break times.

What strategies are being put in place to ensure the children have a reasonable amount of time to get food and eat it at both break times?

Response 5:

Thank you for your response to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

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Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers

Comments 6:

I have children currently in year 7 and 10. I am concerned about the new set up because my daughter was asked to leave the canteen to make way for the next group before she had finished eating. Will you be getting more lunch staff or tills to speed up the queues? How are you ensuring all children have time to both queue and eat all at once?

Response 6:

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Mr Rogers

Comments 7:

I am concerned about the proposed changes to the school day, in particular the move to a single lunch break. There are already long queues for the canteen, so having the whole school trying to get lunch at the same time is going to cause much longer waits. There will be increased volume of pupils trying to use the toilets too. What is your reasoning behind this? Have the children had any input?

Response 7:

Thank you for your response to the consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.

I have outlined your concerns and responded below:

I am concerned about the proposed changes to the school day, in particular the move to a single lunch break. There are already long queues for the canteen, so having the whole school trying to get lunch at the same time is going to cause much longer waits. There will be increased volume of pupils trying to use the toilets too. What is your reasoning behind this? Have the children had any input?

- As outlined in my letter, the reasons behind the change are;
 - to have additional staff available for duties
 - to enable us to offer a wider range of lunchtime extra-curricular activities
 - to minimise the lesson disruption of a split lunch for classrooms near communal areas
 - and to simplify the management of the school day
- In response to your concerns
 - We have created additional capacity by opening an extra service hatch at break and lunch that serves mainly sandwiches, drinks and snacks. This has helped to reduce the queues and made them more manageable
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 - We are reviewing and will be promoting the menu to allow students to decide in advance what they would like to eat

- We are able to open additional toilets due to the increase in available duty staff
- The children have had some input through the student councils but we are asking our student presidents and vice presidents to look at how we can implement the changes whilst improving the overall lunchtime experience for students

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Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers

Comments 8:

Thank you for the recent email regarding proposed changes to the school day.

Would it be possible to clarify whether the changes mean:

- *All children have lunch at the same time*
- *All children arrive at school at the same time*

If the above is the case, I see the benefits and rationale as to why you're doing it but one of the biggest USPs at Sale High (when speaking to other parents with children with children at different secondary schools) is the staggered start times and split lunches. It really helps the newer / younger children feel less overwhelmed and takes away the chaos of so many children arriving at one time (whether that be the start of the day or at lunch). This view has been supported by the parents I've spoken to. Our daughter already says lunchtime is difficult to get served before the break session finishes due to the amount of people queueing. As our son

is about to join in September, it would be a real worry to know all pupils will be arriving at school at the same time.

I would appreciate if consideration can be given to this.

Response 8:

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- Regarding students arriving at school on a staggered start
 - We will continue to operate a staggered start on the first day back in September as we have for previous years
 - The school doesn't have a staggered start throughout the year
 - The only staggered start the school has operated, apart from the first day in September, would have been during Covid for health and safety reasons.
 - On the first day in September, Year 7 students will arrive at the normal time in the morning and the rest of the school will arrive at points throughout the day.
 - On any normal day, children are welcome to arrive before 8.30am and can sit in the canteen until that point
- In relation to your concerns regarding the single lunch
 - We have created additional capacity by opening an extra service hatch at break and lunch that serves mainly sandwiches, drinks and snacks. This has helped to reduce the queues and made them more manageable
 - We are adding additional till points in the canteen and reconfiguring the service areas to speed up the service
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straight away to line up and 2 year groups queue from half way through lunch.

- We are reviewing and will be promoting the menu to allow students to decide in advance what they would like to eat
- We are also opening additional toilets due to the increase in available duty staff
- Year 7 will be served separately in the hall and will be able to spend their entire lunch time in there if they would like

As Year 11 have now finished their exams, we are trialling one lunch for the remainder of the term. We have put all of the above changes in place to test out their effectiveness and to give us a chance to iron out any issues before the start of the next academic year. The lunch is aiming to replicate how it will work in September, with 2 sittings for the 4 year groups using the 2 canteens. From September, as we will use the hall for our new Year 7, this won't impact the 2 canteens.

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Please let me know if there is anything additionally you would like to discuss regarding the proposed changes.

Kind Regards

Mr Rogers