



Monday 7th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you with an update following on from the consultation letter regarding the proposed changes to the school day for next year.

Firstly, thank you to all parents that responded to the consultation, it was really helpful in ensuring that we had considered all potential implications of the changes. I have written individually to the 8 parents that responded to the consultation and an anonymised copy of the correspondence is available on our website in the 'Parents' section, under 'School Day and Bus Information'.

The majority of the 8 responses highlighted concerns regarding the change to a single lunch time. To provide assurances, we have put a range of measures in place to ensure that the lunchtime change is manageable and we are trialling the change for the last 4 weeks of the year to test the effectiveness of the systems and iron out any issues that arise.

The following changes have initially been made to try and make it successful. We have:

- Created additional capacity by opening an external service hatch that serves mainly sandwiches, drinks and snacks.
- Added additional till points in the canteen.
- Established 2 sittings to limit the amount of time students are waiting in a queue. This means that 2 year groups go straight away to line up and 2 year groups queue from half way through lunch.
- Opened additional toilets due to the increase in available duty staff.
- Promoted the menu better to allow students to decide in advance what they would like to eat. We are also working with students to review the menu moving forward to ensure they are happy with what is on offer.

For the last 2 weeks we have had the above changes in place as we aim 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 from both sittings served within the first 25 minutes of lunch.
- By using 2 sittings, on average, students are spending between 5 and 8 minutes queueing.
- When students use the new external service hatch, this takes between 5-10 minutes to queue and after the first 20 minutes of lunch time, the queue has finished.
- Fridays have been problematic with longer queues and slower service time - this has been due to chips being served on a Friday, resulting in an increase in students wanting hot food compared to all other days.

Regarding Friday service, we are looking at ways to speed this up, including the following possibilities: having more till points, additional staff supporting the canteen and an additional location to serve on that day. In turn, any of these solutions would also positively impact other days.

We believe that we are able to iron out the issues that have surfaced up to now. With all of this in mind, along with the additional 10 minutes for lunchtime 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.

As a result, we will be making the change to one lunch time for September 2025 but will continue to review this, particularly during the first term. I am aware that the change may have caused some additional issues that we haven't yet picked up on and would ask students to feed these back to us through their form tutors and form captains so that we can find solutions to them. As a school, we try to learn by listening and continually evaluating processes in all areas with a view to improving the experience of students and staff.

Please see below a reminder of the new timings of the day for September.

Time	
8:30am	Students to arrive at school and make their way to line up
8:35 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 10.00	Period 1
10.00 – 11.00	Period 2
11.00 – 11.20	Break
11.20 – 12.20	Period 3
12.20 – 13.20	Period 4
13.20 – 14.10	Lunch
14.10 – 15.10	Period 5
15.10 – 15.50	Period 6 (Year 11 only)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Rogers
Headteacher