

17th June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

From Monday 20 June we are starting a new timetable and new groupings.

There are many reasons for this change.

- Students have missed out on learning time over the past few weeks with closures due to GCSE exams- we need to make sure we make this time up.
- The government has made huge changes to examinations for all young people – these changes are being phased in - we need to make sure that students are in the correct classes preparing for correct examinations.
- As a school we find it hard to manage so many individual timetables – and we appreciate that busy households need routines- so by having nearly all students in for a full time timetable it will make ALL of our lives easier.
- We are undergoing massive building alterations and if we have to make changes over the next term at least classes will be in clear teaching groups and it will be easier to reorganise.

So what will the new timetable look like?

- **8.45-2.30pm (Mon – Thurs) and 8.45-12.30 (Fri)**
- **Break – 10.30am – 10.45am**
- **Assembly 10.45-11.00am**
- **Lunch 12.30-1.00pm**

School starts at 8.45am. If students need to go to the shop they should do this BEFORE school so they are ready for 8.45am. Any student arriving after 9am (unless with a clearly agreed timetable) will have a late mark. Regular “lates” and poor attendance will mean that you may be invited to an attendance clinic run by Education Welfare Service. We need to prepare our students for the next stage in their life- be it a return to school – a fresh start in college or employment.

All items to be handed in on arrival in the new reception area please.

Uniform – school uniform to be worn at all times please

What if my child is unhappy with the new arrangements?

Change can be a challenge for many of us. We are preparing students for change all the time in school. They may be separated from their “best friend” - they may prefer their old “key worker” or their former “TA”. They may find the work too difficult. They may start to be more worried about exams. This is all perfectly normal. The worst thing we

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can do is to simply change back. I have put a lot of work into these plans and as a staff we have discussed different student groupings over many weeks. We aim high for our students and we want them to achieve as many qualifications as possible and to make progress in all areas. I would ask that you keep having discussions if your child is unhappy and to try to find out what is the reason for the worry.

Over the next few weeks there will be whole school activities and chances to “mix and mingle”.

If you are concerned please could I ask you to support us in these changes for a week or so. We do listen and we do try to respond but I would ask that you continue to try to encourage your child to get used to the new arrangements. In the event of a longer term problem I am happy to meet with parents and carers and the young person to discuss.

By working together in partnership, we will be able to offer your child the best chance of achieving the academic and social success that they deserve.

Finally there are some great events coming up over the next few weeks and it should be a fabulous end of another successful academic year.

Keep an eye on the website for dates!

Kind regards

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