



Dear Parent/carer

Proposed changes to the school day

Since arriving at the school I have been approached by many students and asked to review the school day. In particular they have expressed concern that the lunch break is too long.

Also governors and senior leadership of the academy are concerned that we are not maximising time for teaching and learning and pastoral support.

Therefore I am proposing that we shorten the current 50 minute lunch time break to 30 minutes. I am not proposing to change the start or end times of the school day.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Students will arrive at 8.50 a.m. and go to registration until 9.00 a.m.
- Students will attend their first timetabled lesson at 9.00 a.m.
- Periods 1 & 2 will last from 9.00 a.m. until 11.00 a.m.
- Morning break will be from 11.00 a.m. until 11.20 am
- Lunch time breaks will be reduced from 50 minutes to 30 minutes
- Lunch time breaks will be staggered over two periods as follows:

1st Lunchtime break years 7, 8 from September 2016. Start at 12.20 -12.50 p.m.

2nd Lunchtime break years 9, 10 & 11. Start at 1.20 until 1.50 p.m.

6th form lunch breaks may be timetabled on different days to a first or second lunch as best fits the subject being taught

- PHSE will be removed from the main curriculum timetable into dedicated tutor time twice a week. This provides 2 hours per fortnight for additional teaching in the core subject of science and the flexibility of introducing a double lesson per fortnight for each science class.
- Reading lessons in years 9, 10 and 11 in English will be removed providing an additional hour of GCSE English teaching. Reading will be themed over an immersion week in the calendar and included as a weekly tutor time activity.
- Tutor time for the lower school (years 7-11) will include 10 minutes in the morning 08.50 until 09.00 and then from 2.50 p.m. until 3.20 pm. The afternoon tutor time will include time for assembly, pastoral care, PHSE, literacy, numeracy, problem solving and life skills. This will represent an enhancement of the current pastoral support in place.
- 6th form students will have timetabled PHSE, CEIAG, assembly and tutor support time as now.

Benefits of the Proposed Changes

- The children's behaviour at TGAR is exemplary. However, children are more likely to engage in unsociable behaviour during unstructured 'social' sessions than they are during lesson times, thus reducing lunch breaks should reduce incidents and opportunities for poorer behaviour.
- The vast majority of concerns raised by parents with the school are related to social incidents that have occurred during the lunch break.
- The current lunchtime structure is difficult to accommodate as many children want supervised clubs which can be better run over a staggered lunch break allowing staff to put in place activities that are age appropriate.
- The changes to the day better aligns lesson times across Worcester and Redditch which will allow staff to be employed over more than one school enabling the provision of a varied curriculum for example a computer science teacher can be employed over two schools to meet the needs of the children.
- The changes of school day allow an additional 3 hours per fortnight into the curriculum for teaching core and GCSE subjects.
- The split lunch time will allow better utilisation of both staff and facilities and enable the scheduling of practical subjects into specialist rooms, thus allowing students to access higher levels of skills and have better learning experiences.
- Accessing tutor time at the end of the day means that any student related issues that have occurred during the day can be dealt with promptly rather than causing conflict overnight.
- Accessing tutors at the end of the day will provide a more positive end to the day and greater support to students for areas such as homework.

The school day

	6th form may be scheduled to either first or second lunch as best fits their timetable		
	Years 9, 10 & 11		Years 7, 8
Period 1	09.00-10.100	Period 1	09.00-10.100
Period 2	10.00-11.00	Period 2	10.00-11.00
Break	11.00-11.20	Break	11.00-11.20
Period 3	11.20-12.20	Period 3	11.20-12.20
Period 4	12.20-13.20	Lunch	12.20-12.50
Lunch	13.20-13.50	Period 4	12.50-13.50
Period 5	13.50-14.50	Period 5	13.50-14.50
Tutor time	14.50-15.20	tutor	14.50-15.20

Whilst this is not a formal consultation I would welcome your views. Please provide any views to me at principal@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk. There will also be an opportunity to raise any issues with me at the forthcoming information evening on the

Rose Rees
Principal