



12th July 2013

Dear Parents/Carers

Curriculum Developments – September 2013

I am writing to provide you with some key information on curriculum developments that will take effect from September 2013.

You may be aware that we have undertaken a significant curriculum review this year, involving a large number of students, staff and governors. This has resulted in the following developments;

- We will move to a 5 period day in September, instead of the current arrangement, which is for 6 periods per day. This will mean that lessons last 1 hour (10 minutes longer than current lessons) and will enable a deeper learning experience in each lesson. Another reason for this change is to cut down on 'travel time' between lessons, which can be significant given the size of our site. Timings of the day will be;

Registration	8.45-8.55
Period 1	8.55-9.55
Period 2	9.55-10.55
BREAK	
Period 3	11.15-12.15
Period 4	12.15-1.15
LUNCH	
Tutorial Period	2.00-2.30
Period 5	2.30-3.30

- As you can see, there will be a 30 minute tutor period after lunch. This will enable a much sharper focus on the important aspects of tutoring, including careful monitoring of student progress, and delivery of meaningful information, advice and guidance on some of the bigger issues and subjects affecting all students.
- We will also be moving to a two week timetable. This means that Week A and Week B will be slightly different in each student's timetable. When school begins again on 4 September (for Year 7 and 12) and 5 September for everyone else, it will be Week A. The following week will be Week B, and the week after will be Week A again. This pattern will continue throughout the year (with holidays not being counted). Thus if a term ends with Week A, it will be Week B when we come back to school. The two week timetable allows more flexibility in timetabling and in allocation of hours to different subjects in different key stages.

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- There will also be four 'curriculum' days, when the normal timetable is suspended, and students will be working on projects and activities that will take them away from their usual subjects. This will allow us to deepen the learning experience with whole days being devoted to particular activities. Curriculum days will provide memorable and challenging experiences for students, and focus on development of some of the core skills they will need such as communication, teamwork and resilience. The first of these days will be on Thursday 26 September, and specific detail of the content and organisation of the days will be available in due course.

We are confident that these changes will provide even more opportunity for us to inspire excellence and fulfil the potential of our students, and will mean that we can continue to offer a world class learning experience.

Yours faithfully

Lee Walker – Vice Principal Achievement