

Monday 11th May, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on the length of the school day at Penketh High School.

As parents will be aware, the school were judged as being a Good school during our recent Ofsted inspection. This is a milestone for the school having not been judged as Good since 2007. Whilst it's nice to receive this judgment, what it represents is more important to us. It demonstrates that our passion and commitment for driving improvement at the school on behalf of our outstanding young people is having the impact we're striving for. This work will continue both during the period of closure and once it is safe to return to school.

A key aspect of the rapid improvement at the school over the last two years has been the dedication and appetite for improvement demonstrated by the staff at the school. Their commitment to our young people has been an inspiration for me. They have undertaken a rigorous professional development programme, committing time and effort into developing their craft as teachers and developing departmental offers for pupils. This has paid dividends in the classroom as staff have, themselves, secured improvements in our collective approach to teaching and the content we deliver to pupils. Indeed, our recent Ofsted identified that "The hard work of staff contributes to the good quality of education that pupils receive" and that "pupils now benefit from a good quality of education, day in, day out."

I'm sure you can appreciate that time in school is limited. We conduct the vast majority of our professional development during after school sessions. This limits the programme we can deliver to staff as you will know that we offer a comprehensive afterschool EPS programme for pupils in Year 11 to support their preparations ahead of exams at the end of the year. Additional professional development sessions for staff would mean that we have to reduce this offer to our pupils, which is not something we want to do.

As a result, to facilitate even further professional development opportunities for staff and to help drive even further improvement at the school we're proposing a change to our school day each Friday. The main change for pupils would be a slightly later start to the day, so that we could conduct staff training every Friday morning to supplement our after school programme. Pupils would not attend registration periods on Friday and their attendance mark would be recorded from their period 1 register. This change would result in over 60 hours of staff development sessions per year, almost trebling the time we can currently commit to this process; of course this would directly support further improvement at the school and impact positively on the provision for our pupils.

I would like your views on our proposal to change the timings of the school day each Friday from September 2020 and once we can reopen the school. The school times on Monday-Thursday would remain the same and not change. The proposal for Friday is to start later, slightly reduce morning break-time and lunch and remove registration periods. Pupils wouldn't lose any of their academic delivery time and would still attend 5 x 1 hour lessons during the day on Friday, as they do now. The current and proposed times are on the reverse of this letter.

The changes will result in a 9:20am start for pupils on Friday as opposed to the current 8:40am start time.

There will be clearly identified areas available in school for pupils to access before the commencement of the school day, these will be supervised. One of these areas will include the canteen where pupils will be able to access the breakfast service from 8:40am

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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH



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SCHOOL AMBASSADOR





School bus times will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate the proposed changes.

Consultation opens today and closes on Friday 29th May 2020 at 12pm. Responses will be considered throughout the consultation period and a final decision will be communicated to staff, students and parents/carers on Monday 1st June 2020. If the proposals are agreed, it will allow a period of 14 weeks before the new arrangements come into operation.

Feedback on the proposals should be emailed to;

schooltimesconsultation@penkethhigh.org

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

Proposed and current school day timings

Proposed school day each Friday			Monday to Thursday remains the same		
Time	Length of period	Period	Time	Length of period	Period
8:25am	55 mins	Staff CPD	8:40am	20 mins	Morning Registration
9:20am	1 hour	Period 1	9am	1 hour	Period 1
10:20am	1 hour	Period 2	10am	1 hour	Period 2
11:20am	10 mins	Break	11am	15 mins	Break
11:30am	1 hour	Period 3	11:15am	1 hour	Period 3
12:30pm	1 hour	Period 4	12:15pm	1 hour	Period 4
13:30pm	40 mins	Lunch	13:15pm	45 mins	Lunch
14:10pm	1 hour	Period 5	14:00pm	1 hour	Period 5
15:10pm	-	School finishes	15:00pm	10 mins	Afternoon Registration
			15:10pm	-	School finishes



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