



Wolstanton High School

A Shaw Education Trust Academy



Executive Principal: Mrs J Yarwood, B.A. (Hons), NPQH
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22nd March 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Consultation on changes to the school day

As you are aware, we are in the process of looking at ways of improving the provision for the young people at Wolstanton High School, to ensure that they have the very best experience possible.

This letter details some possible changes to lunchtime from June 2017 and to the end of the school day from September. We would welcome your thoughts on the proposals.

1. Split lunchtime proposal

What is the issue?

The dining room space at the school does not have the capacity to comfortably accommodate all of the pupils; as a result, lunchtime does not have a sufficiently calm and sociable feel. Some pupils have told us that they avoid going into the dining room for this reason. It is difficult for pupils to sit and enjoy the excellent food that is on offer as space is limited. Unsettled behaviour at social times makes unfocussed behaviour in subsequent lessons more likely and impacts negatively on our core business – high quality learning.

How could this be addressed?

In order to address this, we propose to split the lunchtime slot so that fewer pupils are on lunch at any one time. The proposal would not have any implications for the current timetable and could be implemented from after the half-term break in June 2017. There would be no changes to the timing of the start and finish to the school day in the current academic year.

What would this mean for my child?

There would be two lunch sittings. Years 7 and 8 would have lunch from 12:10 until 12:50. They would then have their normal period 4 lesson from 12:50 until 1:50.

Years 9, 10 and 11 (until the completion of their exams) would have their period 4 lesson and lunchtime as they currently do.

Teachers would have the same lunchbreak as the class that they would be teaching during lesson 4. This would mean that far fewer pupils would be on lunch at any one time and the experience would therefore be more sociable, offering pupils a better opportunity to sit and enjoy their meal together.

2. Consultation on timings of the school day from September 2017

What is the Issue?

Currently, the final lesson of the day is 10 minutes longer than the other 4 lessons. Evidence shows that pupils' concentration wanes towards the end of the day, and this is particularly likely with an extended final lesson. In addition, the current lunch break is 40 minutes in length. Some pupils become unsettled towards the end of the lunchbreak and are not in the most positive frame of mind to approach the final lesson of the day.

How could this be addressed?

There are a number of possible alternatives to address this. Three possible options are detailed below. Two of the proposals consider the possibility of shortening the lunchbreak slightly, one does not.

Option 1

Timings would be as detailed in the split lunch proposal above, but the final 10 minutes would be removed from lesson 5. **This would mean that school would finish at 2:50pm.** The lunch break would remain as 40 minutes.

This proposal would create five lessons of equal length and would aid greater focus in the final lesson.

This option would not however, address unsettled behaviour towards the end of the lunchbreak.

Option 2

The timings of this would be as in option 1, but the **lunchbreak would be reduced by 5 minutes, to 35 minutes.** School would finish earlier in this option and in option 3.

The slightly earlier finish would mean that if pupils had attended after-school clubs or additional lessons, they would still be able get home in daylight, even in winter. Those pupils who walk to collect their siblings would be able to do so more easily.

This would mean that the timings of the school day would be:

8:30	Registration and form period
8:50-9:50	Period 1
9:50-10:50	Period 2
10:50-11:10	Break
11:10 –12:10	Period 3
12:10 –12:45	Lunch 1; Period 4a 12:45-1:45
12:10 – 1:10	Period 4b Lunch 2 1:10-1:45
1:45-2:45	Period 5
2:45pm	End of school

Option 3

This option would involve **reducing the lunchbreak to 30 minutes.** This would mean that the timings of the school day would be:

8:30	Registration and form period
8:50-9:50	Period 1
9:50-10:50	Period 2
10:50-11:10	Break
11:10 –12:10	Period 3
12:10 –12:40	Lunch 1; Period 4a 12:40-1:40
12:10 – 1:10	Period 4b; Lunch 2 1:10 – 1:40
1:40-2:40 pm	Period 5
2:40pm	End of school

If you would like to comment on any of the proposals, we would be grateful for responses by **Thursday 6th April please**. Comments can be made either on the slip attached or by emailing:

headTeacher@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk.

In addition, we would of course be happy to hear comments during the forthcoming coffee morning and the after school meeting which are already scheduled.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J. Yarwood
Executive Principal



Mrs D. Farrent
Head of School

Response sheet

Child's name: _____

Year group: _____

1. Split lunchtime proposal

Comments:

2. Consultation on timings of the school day from September 2017

Comments:

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3