



Our Ref: JS/at/605
13 February 2024

Dear All

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to outline some proposed changes to the school day at Harton Academy.

As you may be aware, we are constantly striving to provide the best possible education and learning environment for our students. In line with this commitment and new statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) due in September 2024, we have been reviewing our current school day structure and have identified some areas where improvements can be made.

After careful consideration and consultation with our staff, we are proposing the following changes to the school day:

- 1. Adjusted Start and End Times:** We are adjusting the start and end times of the school day to better align with the needs of our students and staff. This will involve starting with lesson 1 at 8:30am and finishing at 3:00pm allowing for a more efficient use of instructional time. This will mean that the school day is shorter but will allow for a greater extracurricular offer which we hope will broaden our offer for all students. The reduction in time does not come from reducing learning time but from reducing break time. The total learning time across the week will increase by 75 minutes which will be used to make a more tailored learning offer for our students.
- 2. Break and Lunch Periods:** The break period will remain the same but lunchtime will change from a 1 hour lunch period to 3 x 30minute lunch periods. Currently the academy has a 1 hour period where students spend a disproportionate amount of time queuing for their lunch or in Key Stage 4 leaving the school site to have lunch in the community. Students leaving the school site cause a significant safeguarding risk and take an excessive amount of resources to manage. Reducing this unnecessary burden on the academy will allow us to redeploy resources in more impactful ways. Currently the dining experience is very rushed and students only have a limited time in the dining hall. By making the groups smaller and more focused (1 or 2 year groups) then we will be able to improve the dining experience by catering for all students in that 30 minute period but will also be able improve our food options. We know this will improve the experience and provide students with adequate time for rest and nourishment, while ensuring that these periods do not disrupt the flow of learning.
- 3. Curriculum Enhancement:** In addition to the adjusted school days, we are increasing opportunities to enhance our curriculum and offer a wider range of subjects and extracurricular activities by increasing the total learning time across the week. Moving away from traditional registration periods to intervention and personal development sessions allows us to ensure the learning pathways that students follow can become more bespoke and tailored to their individual needs.

Please see below the proposed school day:

New school day proposal

Time	Activity
8:30 – 9:30am	Period 1
9:30 – 10:30am	Period 2
10:30 – 10:50am	Break
10:50- 11:30am	Intervention time
11:30 – 12:30pm	Period 3
12:30 – 2:00pm	Lunch and Period 4 (details below)
2:00 - 3:00pm	Period 5
3:00pm (School day finish)	Enrichment and Engagement

Time	Lunch block 1 Y7	Lunch block 2 e.g. Y8 and Y9	Lunch block 3 e.g. Y10-13
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Period 4 (1 st half)	Lunch	Period 4
1:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	Period 4	Period 4
1:30pm – 2:00pm	Period 4 (2 nd half)	Period 4	Lunch

We understand that any changes to the school day can have an impact on your family's daily routine and commitments. Therefore, we value your input and would like to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding these proposed changes. Your feedback will help us make informed decisions that benefit the entire school community. Please email any questions or concerns to schooldayconsult@Hartonacademy.co.uk by 3:00pm on Friday 1 March 2024.

We believe that these proposed changes will contribute to the overall improvement of our school and the educational experience of our students. Your support and collaboration are vital in ensuring the success of these initiatives.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to create a positive and enriching school day for our students.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Skurr
Head Teacher