



15 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This letter contains **important information about changes to our lunchtime and end of day arrangements**. It also contains an **explanation of the different levels (tiers) of school closure in the event of an increase in infection in the area**.

**Lunchtime/end of day**

Current lunchtime arrangements have worked well so far, and enabled us to keep the year groups apart. We have been blessed with good weather and students have been able to play outside after they have eaten, allowing us to clean and prepare the dining space for the next year group – therefore the overlap time between year groups has not been a problem. We are well aware that as time goes on and the weather worsens, students will need to be indoors more at lunchtime, sheltering from rain/snow/cold. This would give us no time to clean and prepare the space, unless we moved the students outdoors into the wet, which I am not prepared to do.

Therefore, from after October half-term, lunchtime for all years will be reduced by 20 minutes and the school day will end 20 minutes earlier. We have carefully monitored serving times, and 30 minutes is plenty of time for students to eat (the dining areas have finished serving after 10-15 minutes). This change also means that Period 6, interventions, detentions etc. would finish 20 minutes earlier (although study club can still go on to the current finish time of 4:30pm). **There will be no loss to learning time compared to the current model**, and this earlier finish means that travel home in the dark from these after-school events is much less likely.

The new lunchtime will look like this:

**\*Period 4/Lunch timings and locations**

	12.20-12.30	12.30-12.40	12.40-12.50	12.50-13.00	13.00-13.10	13.10-13.20	13.20-13.30	13.30-13.40	13.40-13.50
7	Lunch/Play (Main Hall/Car Park)			P4					
8	P4			Lunch/Play (Main Hall/Car Park)			P4		
9	P4			Lunch/Play (Dining Room/Near Courts)			P4		
10	P4			Lunch/Play (Dining Room/Near Courts)			P4		
11*	Lunch/Play (Dining Room/Near Courts)			P4					
P16	P4			Lunch/Play (Main Hall/6 <sup>th</sup> form)			P4		

*\*This model will be slightly altered during the upcoming PPE's for year 11 w/c 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Yr11 will switch their break time with yr9, and have a later break from 10.50-11.20 to allow for a longer exam session in the morning (8.50-10.50am). Their lunchtime will remain early, allowing for a longer afternoon exam session. (12.50-14.50pm)*

Additionally, the finish times at the end of the school day will be less staggered from after the October half-term break. This will reduce the number of students waiting for siblings in other year groups, and reduce the time parents/carers doing the pick-up will have to wait.

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Y7/8/9 will finish at 2.40pm and Y10/11/12/13 will finish at 2.50pm; the new school day will look like this:

	8.25-8.50	8.50-9.50	9.50- 11.20		11.20-12.20	12.20-13.50		13.50-14.50	14.50-15.50		
	Tutorial	Period 1	*Period 2 and Break time		Period 3	Period 4 and Lunchtime*		Period 5**	Period 6		
7			B	P2		L	P4			14.40	
8			P2	B		P2	P4			L	14.40
9			P2	B		P4	L	P4		14.40	
10			P2	B		P2	P4			L	14.50
11*			B	P2		L	P4			14.50	
P16			P2			B	P4	L		P4	14.50
<b>Break/Lunch Start Times</b>		<b>9.50</b>	<b>10.20</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>12.20</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>13.20</b>				

\* Sessions 90 mins in total, 60min lesson, 30 minute break

\*\* Staggered finish, lesson time 50 (KS3) or 60 (KS4/P16) minutes

### Adjustment to school bus timetable

After half term, the Goldenboy bus service end of school departure times will be brought forward by 20 minutes. The bus will arrive on site at 2.50pm and will leave the school site at 3.10pm. All drop off points along the route will therefore be approximately 20 minutes earlier than currently scheduled.

### Tiers of school closure

The Prime Minister's announcement this week detailed three levels of general lockdown in response to local conditions:

- "medium" alert level – which will cover most of the country – will consist of the current national measures, which came into force on 25 September. This includes the Rule of Six, and the closure of hospitality at 10pm.
- "high" alert level primarily aims to reduce household to household transmission by preventing all mixing between households or support bubbles indoors. The Rule of Six will apply in outdoor spaces, including private gardens.
- "very high" alert level will apply where transmission rates are causing the greatest concern, based on an assessment of all the available data and the local situation.  
Tiers of restrictions in schools are different to this, but you should know how education provision could be changed, and how this would affect your child/children (please note, the decision as to which tier we are on is not made by schools):
- Tier one is as we are now, fully open with safety measures in place.
- Tier two would move us to a rota system where half the students are in school receiving face to face education and half are at home on remote education\* for two weeks. After this, the students who had been receiving remote education\* would be in school for two weeks and those who had been in school, would be at home on remote education\*. This rota would be in place until the tier was changed up or down. Key worker and vulnerable children would be in all the time. The same safety measures as tier one would still be in place.
- Tier three would move **most** students being at home full time receiving remote education\*, with certain year groups (decided by the Government) in school for education. The Government have not said this, but I would imagine they would select exam year groups as a priority to be in school. Key worker and vulnerable children would be in all the time. The same safety measures as tier one would still be in place.
- Tier four would be complete school closure, as we were from March to May this year, with all students at home on remote education\*. Key worker and vulnerable children would be in all the time. The same safety measures as tier one would still be in place.

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*\* Remote education. We have been working hard behind the scenes to develop our provision for remote learning. This is something I wanted to do before we had even heard of Covid because it offers many advantages for homework, however I have brought this forward by 12 months in the current circumstances and appointed Mr Benjeddi to lead it. There was, and still is, much to get in place but we are working towards using the GoogleClassroom suite (which is more powerful than ShowMyHomework/Satchel) and training staff to record powerpoints with a commentary to enable students to receive lessons if year groups are being educated at home. This will be rolled out over the coming weeks and months.*

I will of course notify you of any change to education provision as soon as we are made aware of it, but based on previous experience I will not be told ahead of any public announcements.

Can I thank you for your on-going support. Many parents/carers have said to me “It can’t be easy in school at the moment” – we have our challenges but it is made **much** easier with your support.

Yours faithfully



Nicholas Simms  
Headteacher

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