



SYDENHAM SCHOOL

Specialist Science & Mathematical School

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Thursday, 13 June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Proposed changes to the school day

I am writing to you regarding some proposed changes to the structure of the school day at Sydenham School, from 1st September 2024. We welcome your views and feedback.

The proposed changes are:

- Introduce a lesson 7 for Year 11 students only to ensure that all students engage in additional learning until 4pm on Monday - Thursday.
- End the school day 5 minutes earlier every day. This would reduce lunch time by 5 minutes to 45 minutes. There would be no change to the length or number of lessons.
- Start school at 9:00 on Wednesdays to facilitate staff meetings/training (the library and breakfast club will be open from 8:30am). There would be no change to the length or number of lessons. Students would not have registration on Wednesdays but would go straight into period 1.

The current and proposed times are on the reverse of this letter.

Why change the school day from its current format?

- To ensure that *all* Year 11 students receive additional access to their teachers to support their learning in preparation for their GCSE exams. Currently we offer Year 11 interventions sessions after school but attendance is variable.
- To reduce the lunch break length, as with the addition of the canopy (Year 11 dining space), we can cater for all our students within 30 minutes. This additional 5 minutes supports the period 7 finishing at 4pm and extracurricular clubs beginning 5 minutes earlier which is useful in the winter months.
- Staff will be working until 4pm teaching Year 11 students and so starting at 9:00 on Wednesdays facilitates conducting any meetings/training during the school day in the interests of staff wellbeing as opposed to starting them at 4pm.

Student outcomes and staff feedback will be used to measure the impact of these changes.

The parental engagement window opens today and closes at midday on **Thursday 27th July 2024**. If the proposals are agreed, the new arrangements would come into operation on 4th September 2024. Feedback on the proposals should be emailed to headspa@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

I believe these changes would be beneficial to the school community and would positively affect our provision at Sydenham School.

Thank you for your time in feeding back on these proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Wijnberg
Headteacher

School Day Timings 2024/25

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	Wednesday	Friday
8:40 - 8:50 Arrival	Arrival 9:00 - 9:10	8:40 - 8:50 Arrival
8:50 - 9:10 Tutor time	No tutor time	8:50 - 9:10 Tutor time
9:10 - 10:00 P1	9:10 - 10:00 P1	9:10 - 10:00 P1
10:00 - 10:50 P2	10:00 - 10:50 P2	10:00 - 10:50 P2
10:50 - 11:10 BREAK	10:50 - 11:10 BREAK	10:50 - 11:10 BREAK
11:10 - 12:00 P3	11:10 - 12:00 P3	11:10 - 12:00 P3
12:00 - 12:50 P4	12:00 - 12:50 P4	12:00 - 12:50 P4
12:50 - 13:35 LUNCH	12:50 - 13:35 LUNCH	12:50 - 13:35 LUNCH
13:35 - 14:25	13:35 - 14:25	13:35 - 14:25
14:25 - 15:15	14:25 - 15:15	14:25 - 15:15
15:15 - 16:00 P7 (Y11 Only)	15:15 - 16:00 P7 (Y11 Only)	No P7