



# SYDENHAM SCHOOL

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Thursday, 12 June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Proposed changes to the school day

Following an extensive review of our current curriculum and educational provision, we are proposing changes to enhance learning outcomes and better support student wellbeing. These changes aim to improve lesson continuity, align with our sixth form partnership requirements, and provide more consistent daily routines that support attendance and punctuality.

I am therefore writing to you regarding some proposed changes to the structure of the school day at Sydenham School, from 1st September 2025 and welcome your views and feedback.

### The proposed changes are:

- 8:30am start daily
- 5 x 60-minute lessons daily
- 20-minute morning break and 45-minute lunch break
- 2:55pm finish for Year 7-10 daily
- 3:45pm finish for Year 11 Monday – Wednesday, 2:55pm finish on Thursday and Friday

### The current schedules:

- 8:45am start (except Wednesdays at 9:00am)
- 6 x 50-minute lessons daily (which includes a combination of single lessons at 50 minutes and double lessons at 100 minutes)
- 20-minute morning break and 45-minute lunch break
- 3:15pm finish for Year 7-10 daily
- 4:00pm finish for Year 11 Monday – Thursday, 3:15pm finish on Friday

The detailed current and proposed timetables are outlined at the end of this letter.

### Why change the school day from its current format?

- **Enhanced Learning:** Longer, less frequent double lessons make it harder for some students to maintain continuity and progression, particularly when some subjects are only taught once a fortnight. 60-minute lessons, however, strike a good balance, facilitating meaningful learning without losing student engagement.
- **Improved Attendance:** Morning registration every day, at the same time, will support consistent attendance and punctuality, which is a key school priority.



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- **Sixth Form Collaboration:** Alignment with Forest Hill School to a 5-period day will reduce timetabling constraints in our joint sixth form partnership (Sydenham Forest Hill 6th Form - SFH6), providing students with greater subject choices and opportunities.

## Benefits for students:

- More frequent and focused lessons
- Earlier finish times for students
- Maintained intensive Year 11 support through additional lessons but also allowing two days for wellbeing and enrichment.

This is a consultation period where we genuinely want to hear your views. Student outcomes and staff feedback will be used to measure the impact of these changes if implemented.

**The engagement period opens today and closes at midday on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.** If the proposals are agreed following this engagement, then the new arrangements would come into operation on 1st September 2025.

**Feedback on the proposals should be submitted via this form: [Parental Feedback](#)**

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

Thank you for your time providing feedback on these proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Wijnberg  
Headteacher



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## Current School Day 2024-25

<b>Monday, Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Arrive by 8:45 am	Arrive by 9:05 am	Arrive by 8:45 am
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 <b>BREAK</b>	10:50 – 11:10 <b>BREAK</b>	10:50 – 11:10 <b>BREAK</b>
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 <b>LUNCH</b>	12:50 – 13:35 <b>LUNCH</b>	12:50 – 13:35 <b>LUNCH</b>
13:35 – 14:25 P5	13:35 – 14:25 P5	13:35 – 14:25 P5
14:25 – 15:15 P6	14:25 – 15:15 P6	14:25 – 15:15 P6
15:15 – 16:00 P7 (Y11 Only)	15:15 – 16:00 P7 (Y11 Only)	15:15 – 16:00 P7 (Y11 Only)

## New Proposed School Day 2025-26

<b>Monday – Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday &amp; Friday</b>
8:25 – 08:30 Arrival and go to tutor time	8:25 – 8.30 Arrival and go to tutor time
8:30 – 8:50 Tutor time	8:30 – 8:50 Tutor time
8:50 – 9:50 P1	8:50 – 9:50 P1
9:50 – 10:50 P2	9:50 – 10:50 P2
10:50 – 11:10 <b>BREAK</b>	10:50 – 11:10 <b>BREAK</b>
11:10 – 12:10 P3	11:10 – 12:10 P3
12:10 – 13:10 P4	12:10 – 13:10 P4
13:10 – 13:55 <b>LUNCH</b>	13:10 – 13:55 <b>LUNCH</b>
13:55 – 14:55 P5	13:55 – 14:55 P5
14:55 – 15.45 P6 (Y11 Only)	No P6