



Dear Parents/Carers

You may remember that I wrote to you in May regarding proposed changes to the timings of our school day at Malbank starting September 2023. This was in line with the Government's White Paper of March 2022 and the DfE's "Minimum expectation on the length of the school week" information note, both of which state that schools should be open a minimum of 32.5 hours per week from September 2023. Since our consultation began, Ofsted have also made it clear in recent local inspections that schools should meet this "expectation" from September onwards and have been enquiring as to whether schools will be compliant in the new academic year. As such, it is not something we can choose to ignore.

To ensure that we comply with this expectation, from September 2023 we will extend our school day by 15 minutes. This change will result in a 3.15pm finish time, instead of the current 3.00pm finish time. The new school day times are shown below for clarity.

School day from September 2023:

- Start time: 8.45am
- Finish time: 3.15pm

As part of our planning and consultation we gave parents the chance to give feedback through a Microsoft Form. There were 29 responses, the vast majority of which were in favour of the change, with a handful of parents noting their concern regarding potential changes to buses and transport.

As you would therefore expect, a key part of the process has been our extensive collaborative work with the Local Authority Transport team to find solutions for our school transport. Final details of changes are still being processed and will be communicated to you as soon as we have the information, however I wanted to give you advance warning of the change of school timings as soon as I could rather than wait until that point. I can reassure you that bus information will be made available as soon as possible and solutions are in place.

In changing to a 32.5-hour week, this additional time gives us a fantastic opportunity to enhance and develop our current pastoral support for students by allowing us to extend form time by 15 minutes. Now running at 30 minutes a day from September, this will allow for enhanced assembly provision, intervention opportunities and embedded and focused reading time in addition to a full relaunch of how we use our time with form groups.

Another change we will be making alongside the shift in day length is that rather than starting the day with form time, students will instead **start their period 1 lesson at 8.45** and subsequently go into form time from 9.45 until 10.15. The decision to start the day with in-



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Lesson learning is based on a desire to encourage a prompt start to the day with students engaged in learning the moment they arrive. It was a process we found success with during the Covid phase of education where students started without form time. The change also saw punctuality and attendance increase in all years.

Many thanks for your patience in awaiting confirmation of our new timings and to all parents who took part in the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Harrison – Headteacher

Malbank School and 6th Form

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