

Student Tutor Group

22 June 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing so that you are aware of some key developments during next week and beyond.

UNIFORM NEXT WEEK

The weather is expected to become significantly warmer next week with temperatures possibly reaching 28°C and as such, **blazers will be optional for next week only**. Blazers may either be left at home, kept in lockers or worn as usual. **Other expectations still apply** including having students carrying planners, wearing ties and having shirts tucked in. We will be having a **particular focus on ensuring that skirts are worn at the appropriate length, with negative blueprint points being issued and subsequent detentions where necessary**.

NEW TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY NEXT YEAR

I have written previously about the concept of ‘marginal gains’ and this underpins some changes to timings of the school day with effect from September 2018. The changes are designed to maximise learning opportunities by devoting the most productive times of the day to learning.

The new timings of the school day will be as follows:

8:45- 8:50	Move to Period 1
8:50 – 9:50	Period 1
9:50 – 10:50	Period 2
10:50 – 11:10	Break
11:10 – 12:10	Period 3
12:10 – 1:10	Period 4
1:10 – 1:50	Lunch
1:50 – 2:50	Period 5
2:50 – 3:10	Tutor Period/Assembly

As you can see, **the day will start immediately with Period 1 lessons** and the tutor/assembly period will be moved to the end of the day. This will promote good punctuality and ensure that the day starts promptly. Lessons will begin at 8.50am with a 5 minute buffer period enabling everyone to get to the right classroom on time.

There will be 4x 1 hour lessons in the morning, enabling us to make the most of the prime learning time. **Lunchtime will be shortened by 5 minutes**, which has been added as movement time before Period 1.

Having the **tutor period at the end of the day** means that the form tutor can review and congratulate those who have done well and also detain those who arrived late or who have not met our expectations during the day. Students who receive a grade 3 or worse during a lesson will automatically be kept behind for 10 minutes by their form tutor. This should maximise the impact of our new register grades which are given during lessons, by providing a same-day response.

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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I am very confident these changes will improve punctuality, attendance, learning and behaviour, enabling our students to be even more successful next year.

PROSPECTIVE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST UPDATE

Plans for a prospective Multi Academy Trust with Bishopton, Bridgetown and Thomas Jolyffe Primary Schools have been put on hold following a decision by the Governing Body of Bridgetown Primary School to withdraw from the process. There are no plans to proceed at present. However, we will reconsider options next year. Nevertheless, the process has enabled the schools to build closer relationships over the last year. We look forward to continuing to work together for the benefit of our local community whether there is a common governance structure or not.

SINCE HALF TERM

The first three weeks of this half term have featured:

- Students staying with French families in Lille as the return part of our French Exchange
- Year 12 Higher Education Evening
- Hockey trip
- Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Year 9 exams
- Year 5 Career Detective Day
- DNA Drama show performances
- Year 12 skills session by Employability UK
- Year 12 British Library trip
- Year 12 Physics trip to Oxford University
- South Warwickshire Athletics tournament

These are alongside the usual array of clubs, rehearsals and sporting fixtures. We are delighted that the resurfaced athletics track is now open, as well as the new all-weather pitch.

Finally, **congratulations to Mr J Hill (Sociology) and Mr S Beck (Science)** who were recognised in the category of '**Secondary Teacher of the Year**' in the prestigious national 2018 Pearson Teaching Awards. As many of you will know, they are two of our outstanding classroom practitioners who regularly engage, enthuse and inspire their classes.

There are so many things to look forward to over the next four weeks. If you don't already, please follow us on Twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StraUponAvonSch) for regular updates.

Please note, **term finishes on Friday 20th July – at 3.10pm as usual – Non-uniform day.**

The **2018-19 academic year starts for all students at 8.45am on Tuesday 4th September.**

Yours sincerely

Neil Wallace
Headteacher