

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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26th April 2021

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and Carers

QEGS School Day Proposal for September 2021 (PARENT letter)

Over the last few years, we have made several changes to the structure and flow of the school day. Each decision has been based on feedback and to improve the school experience for our students.

Covid-19 has brought new challenges and opportunities such as remote learning, the use of technology, new timings, new co-curricular activities, staggered lunches, less movement around school and many other new gains. We now have the opportunity to keep some of these benefits, try new ways of working, reducing and avoiding 'pinch points' from our previous systems and operations.

Key to this, is the timing and structure of the school day. **Our plan for September 2021 is to keep many elements of the current school day:**

Event	Timings
Form Time	8.45 - 9.15
Period 1	9.15 - 10.15
Period 2 inc. staggered 15 min break	10.15 - 11.30
Period 3	11.30 - 12.30
Period 4 inc. staggered 30 min lunch	12.30 - 14.00
Period 5	14.00 - 15.00

P6 provision (sport, arts, performance, academic support) will run from 15.00 - 16.00.

What lies behind this proposal?

- We have listened to student, parent and staff feedback (Autumn 2020 QA) regarding our 'Covid school day'. Improvements have been evident in students' focus and concentration in lessons, more efficient use of time during the day, balanced with sufficient time for wellbeing (food and drink).
- Onsite teaching and learning has been maintained at a very high standard during Covid, with teachers making good progress with course and content with improved student focus in lessons.
- We remain committed to providing the highest quality education we can, where teaching and learning can flourish. Therefore, teaching time will be maintained at 5 x 1 hour lessons, this is key to the broad curriculum that we offer.
- We want to keep Form Time at the start of the day – we believe that this is essential for student wellbeing at the start of the day.
- We want to continue to 'stagger' breaks and lunches (different year groups having their own specific time and area), avoiding queues for the canteen, maintaining high behaviour standards, building confidence of younger students and facilitating privileges for older students.
- All students will have full access to the curriculum and to all specialist rooms in this model.
- We are also committed to a rich and diverse co-curricular offer balanced with students being able to enjoy hobbies, interests and family life beyond the school day. Co-curricular life has flourished and grown during Covid with over 400 students per week attending sport, music rehearsals, D and I clubs – we have never had these numbers before!

- Improved communication with parents via phone and email, this has been much improved by giving staff the time to do this, we want this to continue.
- Derbyshire County Council and the local school transport providers have confirmed they can provision for our planned new timings and they support the rationale behind this plan.
- New technology such as TEAMS facilitates assemblies and other talks direct into classrooms without the need for movement time and reduces logistics demands.
- School life has continued beyond lesson time and will do in September with 'P6' provision for those that want it and/or need it: ranging from academic support, to sport, arts and performance, academic advancement and team challenges. This will be varied and on a rota to enable wide and inclusive access.
- Many of our students lead full and active lives outside of school: part-time jobs, sports clubs, musical talent, family responsibilities, this more compact school day reduces some of this pressure and improves wellbeing.
- Increased provision of staff development and regular meetings (little and often) have been possible during our Covid experience. Sharing good practice within our school and across the Trust. Staff keeping abreast of up-to-date educational developments. We want this to continue.

We are confident that these changes to the school day timings will be a positive step forward.

- A. If you **agree** and **support** these changes to the school day timings, you do not need to do anything more.
- B. If you have any **questions** about these changes, please use this link <http://www.qegs.link/sdppcqs>
- C. However, if you **disagree** with our planned changes to the school day timings then please complete the feedback form via this link <http://www.qegs.link/sdppc> no later than **Monday 3rd May 2021**. We are undertaking a similar process with our staff and we will consider this feedback before confirming our plans for September 2021.

We will confirm the final details of any changes no later than Friday 28th May 2021 ensuring families and staff have plenty of time to plan ahead.

Thank you for your time, cooperation, and ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher