



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Gareth Roscoe BA (Hons)

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Dear Parent / Carer

Please find some time to read this letter carefully as it contains important information about proposed changes to our school curriculum, day and operations, on which we seek your views.

Our proposed changes are based on research across a number of schools nationally. We have also used international academic research to ensure our plans are appropriate for Park and our community and will have a positive impact on raising standards and expectations. We seek to make these changes to improve the quality of provision at the school and ensure Park School delivers excellence for all.

From September we will change the organisation of our curriculum structure as follows:

One hour lessons:

Currently, students have six 50-minute lessons per day. From September we plan to change this to five 60-minute lessons each day, reducing the curriculum diet by one lesson per day. This model is used in the majority of secondary schools. One hour lessons will allow greater dialogue between staff and students and deeper learning.

The new model will shorten lunchtime to 40 minutes, to support this we will add an extra serving area and till point to ensure students can access the canteen in a timely manner.

Proposed timing for the school day:

08:45 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	Lesson 1
10:00 - 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 - 13:20	Lesson 4
13:20 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Lesson 5
15:00 - 15:20	'Prep' time (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) School will finish at 15:00 on Friday

School day

Please note the slightly earlier proposed start to the day with registration at 08:45 rather than 08:50 currently. School will finish at the same time, 15:20, on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with an earlier finish on Friday at 15:00.

Introduction of 'prep' time:

This will be a 20-minute tutor based session at the end of the day to allow for dedicated independent study and reflection. Students will use the time to read, revise, revisit work or learn new content in advance of lessons as directed by their tutor and part of a year group plan. Assemblies will also take place during this session. 'Prep' time will run Monday to Thursday at the end of the day between 15:00 and 15:20. There will be no 'prep' time on Friday, therefore students will finish slightly earlier at 15:00.

Homework:

We know from talking to parents, students, and staff that homework can cause many issues such as not understanding the homework task, spending too long or too little time on homework, needing to access specialist resources or additional support to complete tasks; which can all create barriers to learning. From September, homework expectations will be clear. Students in Years 7 - 9 will complete one hour of homework per evening covering three subjects utilising 'Knowledge Organisers' that will be provided. Students will focus on learning new knowledge that will be applied and tested in lessons. Students in Years 10 & 11 will follow a similar pattern but with exam-style questions and purposeful revision added to their homework expectations. Homework will support independent learning and prepare students for assessments and examinations, helping to overcome 'exam stress' and anxiety by building up vital skills from Year 7.

Learning Cycles:

September will see the introduction of 12-week Learning Cycles. The school will follow a set calendar with students taking a short low stakes quiz at the start and end of each cycle across all subjects. In week 11 an assessment will check understanding and application of knowledge. Week 12 of each cycle will be used to re-teach the common areas that students find most challenging. This will allow for greater focus within lessons, teaching, assessment and feedback.

Non-pupil days (INSET days):

To fit with our new 12-week teaching cycles we propose to change our published INSET days for September 2019 - 2020. Currently, our published INSET days are Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September, Monday 28th October and Friday 20th December. We propose to change the non-pupil (INSET) days to Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September, Monday 2nd December, Monday 23rd March and Monday 6th July.

The school has consulted with our partner schools within the Tarka Learning Partnership and the Trust will publish a letter on Friday with their support for these changes.

Please note we are not proposing to change the subjects offered, the house system, the department system, transition or any student support services. We are proposing these changes to ensure Park can provide the

best opportunities for everyone. We have high expectations for our students and know they are capable of great things.

We are a community school and as such we appreciate your thoughts and feedback. Please feel free to email any questions, thoughts or comments to feedback@theparkschool.org.uk by **Friday 26th April**. We will endeavour to respond to all emails but may use any questions to create a FAQ document that will be shared with parents before any changes are implemented. We seek your thoughts on all of the above but especially the proposed changes for INSET days and the changes to the timings of the school day.

An information leaflet is also available to accompany this letter. If you would like to know more about these changes or talk to a member of staff please note that we will hold an informal information session on Wednesday 1st May at 6pm. Please see our weekly bulletin after Easter for more information on this.

Yours faithfully



Gareth Roscoe
Headteacher



Kim Baker
Chair of Governors