



AN ACADEMY - PART OF INSPIRE LEARNING TRUST

March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you regarding a minor change to the structure of our school day. We have carefully considered this change in light of the issues I will be outlining in this letter. In particular, students' use of the toilets during lesson time. The primary purpose of this change is to maintain the high levels of engagement from all our students during lesson time.

Over the past few months, students and staff have expressed their increasing concern over the misuse of toilets during the school day. In particular, there has been significant damage to the toilets, and as you can imagine in the current climate, the cost of repairing this damage is very high. Funding these repairs means that we are left with less money to spend in the classroom; funds which are vital to support good learning, progress and student attainment. Furthermore, the time required to repair the toilets means that some are out of order for a number of days, making it significantly busier at social times for the toilets in use.

We have also considered the detrimental impact that the very frequent use of the toilets as a social space, (especially during lesson time), is having on learning. First and foremost, our staff work tirelessly to provide every opportunity for 'everyone' to succeed, and therefore, we want to ensure lesson time is focussed on learning and giving your child the very best opportunity of achieving their potential. Ultimately, our job is to ensure all students can access the next stage of their education without barriers, and regular breaks in learning is limiting our ability to do this.

Therefore, we have carefully considered the structure of our day to support our students in their learning, whilst also being able to access the toilet when lessons are **not** taking place. We will be making minor structural changes to the school day and updating our policy on the use of toilets during lesson time beginning **Monday, 15th April**.

For KS3, we have extended morning break by 5 minutes - giving students more time to eat and use the toilet with staff on duty at this time. We have also added additional movement time between period 3 and period 4 where the toilets will be open and staff will be on duty at this time. This means that **before and after every lesson**, students will have time to use the toilet without being late to lessons and without missing out on valuable learning time.

For KS4, to provide the same experience as those students in KS3, we have added additional movement time between period 1 and period 2, again, meaning **before and after every lesson**, students will have time to use the toilet without being late to lessons and without missing out on valuable learning time.

**For students who have a medical need (where Doctor's evidence has been provided)**, new medical toilet passes will be issued by senior members of staff, and students will have access to the student reception toilet which will be open at all times. If we do not have medical evidence on file, medical passes will not be issued. If you think you may need to update medical evidence, please don't hesitate to contact the school.



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Of course, for the vast majority of our students, they already access the toilets during social times. Therefore, this will not feel like a significant change at all. The update to the structure of our day will simply give students more opportunities (before and after every lesson) to use the toilet when lessons aren't taking place.

Please note, that there are no changes to the start or end of the school day.

If you wish to discuss any of the updates mentioned in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact school in the usual way. As ever, thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Dr Reeder  
Head of School