

April, 2020

## Proposal to change the length and structure of the school day

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Winterhill, our aim is to ensure all students are able to achieve their full potential and successfully meet the demands of the National Curriculum. As you will also be aware, the requirements of the new GCSE qualifications are high; the vast majority of subjects are now assessed by a suite of final exams, with the majority of coursework removed. As such, many subjects require our students to know and apply a range of content under challenging examination conditions: a skill which must be developed over time. In order to fully support our students in meeting these demands, I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day.

In essence, these changes will allow us to increase individual lesson time from 60 minutes to 75 minutes, by reducing the number of lessons in a school day from 5 to 4. Should these changes be approved, they will come into effect from September 2020.

### Proposed Structure of the School Day (September 2020):

	Y7-8			Y9-11	
	START	FINISH		START	FINISH
<b>REG/1</b>	8.45am	9.10am		<b>REG/1</b>	8.45am 9.10am
<b>2</b>	9.10am	10.25am		<b>2</b>	9.10am 10.25am
<b>BREAK</b>	10.25am	10.40am		<b>BREAK</b>	10.25am 10.40am
<b>3</b>	10.40am	11.55am		<b>3</b>	10.40am 11.55am
<b>LUNCH</b>	11.55am	12.30pm		<b>4</b>	11.55am 1.10pm
<b>4</b>	12.30pm	1.45pm		<b>LUNCH</b>	1.10pm 1.45pm
<b>5</b>	1.45pm	3.00pm		<b>5</b>	1.45pm 3.00pm

### Current Structure of the School Day:

	Y7-8			Y9-11	
	START	FINISH		START	FINISH
<b>REG/1</b>	8.40am	8.55am		<b>REG/1</b>	8.40am 8.55am
<b>2</b>	8.55am	9.55am		<b>2</b>	8.55am 9.55am
<b>3</b>	9.55am	10.55am		<b>3</b>	9.55am 10.55am
<b>BREAK</b>	10.55am	11.15am		<b>BREAK</b>	10.55am 11.15am
<b>4</b>	11.15am	12.15pm		<b>4</b>	11.15am 12.15pm
<b>LUNCH</b>	12.15pm	12.50pm		<b>5</b>	12.15pm 1.15pm
<b>5</b>	12.50pm	1.50pm		<b>LUNCH</b>	1.15pm 1.50pm
<b>6</b>	1.50pm	2.50pm		<b>6</b>	1.50pm 2.50pm

Primarily, our aim in proposing this change is to have a positive impact on your child's education, ensuring they experience achievement, right from Year 7. Furthermore, our students' best interests are firmly at the centre of this proposal, and as such, the new structure would give all students vital extra time to delve deeper into the subject content and to practice essential skills required to meet the demands of subject examinations.

When making this proposal we have also considered:

- Other successful schools, and their options pathways. This has led to us increasing our subject offer to include: GCSE Psychology and OCR National Sports Science.
- Reviewing the most up to date educational literature and guidance distributed by a range of professional bodies.
- A detailed review of our own practice, and how we as a school have responded to the demands of the new GCSE qualifications.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you, for this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by June 29<sup>th</sup>, sending your responses to the following email address: [schooldayconsultation@winterhill.org.uk](mailto:schooldayconsultation@winterhill.org.uk).

We will release the results of the consultation and these will be communicated to you via the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Rhodes  
Headteacher