

Q/A Parent Association 03.03.21 - Proposed changes to the school day

Question	Answer
<p>There were lunchtime clubs with mixed year groups, will that still be possible with the staggered lunch times?</p>	<p>The lunchtimes will be restrictive, depending on where the split is and cross year groups would only be able to take place within the split. For example, if the split was Years. 7,8,9, they would be able to mix and likewise for 10/11/12/13 if those year groups were together.</p>
<p>What would happen for example with drama rehearsals for eg the school show where the whole school and all year groups are involved?</p>	<p>After school on the Monday we could integrate events which would allow all students to be part of this.</p>
<p>For parents/carers who intended to hand their uniform down to younger siblings and now cannot because of the change in uniform, will families be entitled to financial help?</p>	<p>Although we are changing the blazer in terms of improving the quality, we are not expecting parents to replace the blazers and are more than happy for the current blazers to be worn. We are looking at the trousers and skirts and if we do go ahead with this change it will be with support and the school supplying the first set of those to any parents affected by the change,</p>
<p>Will the size range be generous?</p>	<p>Monkhouse is a larger company and one of the biggest uniform suppliers in the country. The sizing is better and all sizes will be available for all students. Both other Trust schools use Monkhouse and parents are very happy with the range of sizes available.</p>
<p>Will the trousers be available to girls as well as boys.</p>	<p>Yes and skirts will be available for boys as well as girls.</p>
<p>Will House 'homes' mean that friends in other Houses will not be able to mix at the start of the school day?</p>	<p>Absolutely not, but we hope by September, everything will be back to normal school conditions where students will be able to move freely across the school. When they go to tutor time, they would then go to their House area.</p>
<p>What is the difference between RTL and after school detention?</p>	<p>RTL(Ready to Learn) is a whole system and if you are not ready to learn within the classroom, eg if you are distracting others or not getting on with your own work, you are sent to the RTL room. Detentions are the next step up and more likely to be issued for serious one off incidents. This gives us one more step on the ladder before</p>

<p>Is RTL 2 warnings in a day for 5 hours?</p>	<p>escalating to an exclusion.</p> <p>We have reduced the time in RTL and it is now more bespoke - students remain in the room until they have reflected on why they found themselves there and are able to regulate their behaviour. They can then return to lessons, but not to the lesson they were sent from.</p> <p>RTL is about safeguarding and improving teaching and learning for others. Detention is a more serious sanction i.e. bad language, truanting and is separate from not being ready to learn in the classroom.</p>
<p>Lunch time clubs - If sports are going ahead, how will others carry on in lessons? How soon will new timings come into effect?</p>	<p>We will be looking at launching the new times in September and will be publishing full details to parents/carers.</p> <p>Sporting activities will still take place. In terms of timetabling the school, during Period 4 we would try to avoid any practical PE lessons during this time and all spaces would be available for clubs and lunchtime.</p>
<p>Why is the early finish on Wednesday and not Friday as this would allow more family time?</p>	<p>We will be running staff training (CPL) in the middle of the week so we have time to immediately action the continuous training the following day and beyond.</p>
<p>When will skirts/trousers change?</p>	<p>The uniform change is planned to be launched in September. It is not likely to be across the whole school - for those year groups who we did decide to bring in the change, the school will support parents through the change.</p>
<p>Will the new school uniform be Fairtrade?</p>	<p>We are looking into this at the moment. We have secured with our new supplier that the ties are eco friendly ties and made from recycled plastic bottles. They are identical to the current ties and the price is the same. For students in receipt of pupil premium they will receive 10% discount. The rest of the uniform is currently made in Britain. Mr Maw will confirm if this Fair Trade or not.</p>
<p>With the split lunch how will you ensure there is enough food left for those students coming in at the latter part of lunchtime?</p>	<p>We will be working with Aspens to make sure there is sufficient food for both sessions.</p> <p>Aspens look at the consumption that is taking place to make sure there is enough.</p> <p>There is a 30 minute gap between sessions as well which</p>

	<p>will give them time to prep food.</p> <p>We have positive feedback around the portions that came out of student voice which Aspens have taken on board.</p> <p>We will continue to work with them to make sure we have a range of attractive, healthy and good value food options for students.</p>
<p>With a later finish on Monday some children will be arriving home considerably later if they are travelling home by bus, will this be taken into consideration when there are due dates for homework?</p>	<p>Yes we will be looking at the homework timetable for next year and this will be one of the considerations of - if homework is set on a Monday, how much time have students got to get that done? There will be a view that we give sufficient time and we are understanding of the reduced amount of time children have on a Monday evening.</p>
<p>With an earlier finish time on a Wednesday, some commuters may not be able to pick up - is there any provision for children to remain on school site?</p>	<p>One of the things we are looking at is to make sure that no PE fixtures or sporting commitments are affected through this. On the Wednesday afternoon we would make sure there is provision in school for students who are taking part in after school activities or fixtures after school. We will make sure that everyone can take part in as much as possible so there would be provision in place.</p>
<p>Concerns with the length of lunch, particularly for students who are late out of class at lunchtime. There may be limited or no access to food. Will the split lunch address this?</p>	<p>We would make sure the dismissal of students is prompt and there are routines in place for classes where there may be emerging concerns.</p>
<p>There are reports that Monkhouse have not got uniform that has been ordered ready in time.</p>	<p>Monkhouse have already got a supply of our uniform, transferred from our previous supplier.</p> <p>On our website uniform page it says to contact us rather than the supplier so that we can monitor and make sure they are delivering to the families we have agreed with them.</p>
<p>Is the PE kit changing?</p>	<p>No, there is no change to PE Kit and we are carrying on with our supplier at The Sports Shop in Portishead. Alternatively order forms can be completed in school and we will pass them on.</p>
<p>Food standards in canteen?</p>	<p>Mr Humphreys is looking at menus with Aspens.</p> <p>He will also do a piece of work on this between now and the summer term with students and will feedback.</p> <p>Encourage parents/carers to feedback to Aspens directly.</p>
<p>Are boys going to wear Tartan trousers?</p>	<p>Following consultation with the students, they preferred the grey trousers.</p>

<p>Will PE kit still be worn to school or are students able to change in school?</p>	<p>We will change our approach as the situation changes around us. Students should still come into school in uniform and change in the changing room. The exception to this will be BTEC sport or GCSE performing arts. They will come to school in their kit.</p>
<p>Questions re: Return to School next week</p>	
<p>Can students the X4S buses next week?</p>	<p>That is our expectation. We are awaiting final confirmation and will confirm in the letter to parents going out this week.</p>
<p>Will there be independent work set for children at home next week?</p>	<p>Yes, we are moving to a model of setting independent work for students at home next week.</p>
<p>Face masks - why are parents not being consulted about this?</p>	<p>We are taking all the safety precautions in school that we can so that we do not return to Learning@Home and keep the school community as safe as possible.. We are desperate to get the students back next week and to keep them in school. We are following Government guidelines with regard to face masks to try to protect the community as best as possible.</p>
<p>Are students being tested only once?</p>	<p>Students will be tested 3 times in school in the first fortnight of returning to school. Following tests will be done at home. Review after Easter holidays.</p>
<p>Will the whole Year group be going home if there is a positive test?</p>	<p>We have a staggered return approach to manage this as carefully as possible to make sure we get everyone in safely. Students will be tested before they mix with the rest of the community to keep to a minimum the numbers that we are (1) sending home and (2) have to self isolate. At the moment we are looking in the first week back that we will not send home the whole year group. We will review what we will be doing following the first week should cases rise. We will be guided by Public Health England.</p>
<p>Are you happy for students not to wear masks?</p>	<p>It is not mandatory to wear face masks but is recommended. There are lots of reasons why a child might not be able to wear a mask. For those children, they will wear a lanyard pass so they will not be challenged.</p>

<p>Will home testing be weekly?</p>	<p>Home testing will be twice a week following the three tests in school. Tests will be given to students to take home.</p>
<p>How do we make sure students do not mix before having their test?</p>	<p>They will not mix indoors until their test and will be kept within their tutor group. Students remain in Tutor group bubbles until they have been called down for their test and receive a negative result and then they can mix as a year group.</p>