

27th January 2021

Dear Parent\Carer,

Following my mention in the last Headteacher's letter of us reviewing the timings of the school day, we have now explored the different options and possibilities and will be introducing the new timings as from next week. These will begin on Tuesday 2nd February, immediately following our INSET day on Monday 1st February when no remote or in-school teaching will take place.

We have made these changes following discussions with staff, students and families and in the light of issues around prolonged screen time and in consideration of the mental health and well-being of all. This has become all the more pertinent given the confirmation by the Prime Minister today that schools will re-open on 8th March at the earliest.

The main things that we have changed are

- All lessons will be 45 minutes long
- Morning tutorial time is reduced to 20 minutes
- Break time is increased to 25 minutes
- Lunch time is increased to 50 minutes
- All year groups will follow the same lesson timings (i.e. not staggered break and lunch times)
- The school day will finish for most students at 2:00pm

We will continue to have "live lessons" as our default delivery for remote learning. On the occasions when this is not possible the teacher will alert the students and classes concerned by posting the information on Show My Homework in the morning so it is important that students check this first thing. We will continue to request all student have their cameras on, and will expect their full focus during the lesson time. We also hope that students will be able to maintain their energy levels for all lessons through the new shorter-than-normal school day.

We do hope that children will be able to make use of the additional one hour after the day's formal online learning to engage in activities away from the screen that will benefit their mental health as well as their learning. These would include reading, walking, doing exercises, playing a musical instrument or even having a conversation with other family members. Sometimes, however, students may want to continue with online study and we will thus be updating our web links for "[Learning Resources](#)" and "[Broadening Horizons](#)" should students wish to extend their learning beyond the routine curriculum.

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



We are confident that these changes will lead to better attainment and improved mental health but, as ever, we will keep these changes under review and will make changes to the plans in the future should this be required.

Below please find the schedule for the new day:

8:35 – 8:40	Online registration.
8:40 – 9:00	Pastoral and reading time (20 minutes)
9:00 – 9:45	Period 1 (45 minutes)
9:45 – 10:30	Period 2 (45 minutes)
10:30 – 10:55	Break (25 minutes)
10:55 – 11:40	Period 3 (45 minutes)
11:40 – 12:25	Period 4 (45 minutes)
12:25 – 13:15	Lunch (50 minutes)
13:15 – 14:00	Period 5 (45 minutes)
14:00	End of day KS3
14:00	End of day KS4 /5
14:00 – 14:45	Period 6 /Catch-up

With thanks for your continued support

Take care and stay safe

Regards



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher