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Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Friday 10 March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation on the proposed changes to the school day

Following a full and thorough curriculum review we have decided to move from the current structure of seven periods a day (6 x 45mins + 1 x 40mins) to six equal periods of fifty minutes.

A consequence of this decision is that we will be teaching for five hours a day, whereas the current timetable is five hours ten minutes. The afternoon registration session will be removed. Following a five minute warning bell at the end of lunch, the students will go straight to period five where they will be registered.

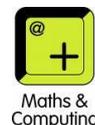
As we need to reduce the day by a total of fifteen minutes it seemed a sensible time to consider whether we should start and finish the school day earlier. This will bring us in line with other local secondary schools.

Benefits from the proposed changes include:

- Times of the day will align closer to other local secondary schools, enabling a closer working relationship in the Sixth Form
- Students who are involved in sporting fixtures will not need to miss the majority of the last period of the day
- The afternoon session will be shorter than it currently is, supporting a more productive and focussed working environment
- Students will be able to get home earlier (we acknowledge that for some, this will only take effect once the times of all of the bus routes are changed)
- Any activities after school can start earlier

Our proposal is that the school day from September 2017 will be as follows:

Warning bell	8.35am
Registration	8.40am
Period 1	9.05am
Period 2	9.55am
Break	10.45am
Period 3	11.05am
Period 4	11.55am
Lunch	12.45pm
Period 5	1.45pm
Period 6	2.35pm
End of day	3.25pm



One of the main considerations before changing is school transport. We have met with the transport team at Herts County Council and have discussed the implications in relation to the bus timetables. They have provided us with the proposed new timetables, **which can be found on our [school website](#)**. There are a small number of bus routes which are on a long term contract with HCC and will therefore continue to leave school at the same time. The times for these routes will change when they are retendered by HCC. The students will be able to stay on the school grounds as they currently do until the buses leave.

Routes where the times will change to coincide with the proposed times of the school day:

M3/M4

341/641 (AM only)

E85 (This is used by a small number of students. Parents will be contacted separately as this is scheduled to arrive at 8.40am)

E86

879 (*)

R66 (*)

R77 (*)

R88 (*)

** These buses are commercial services and have agreed to move their times to coincide with our start and finish times. Exact times will be agreed once a final decision has been made*

Routes where times do not need to change at this stage as students will arrive on time using the current timetable:

331

333

384

For more information about bus routes and times, please go to intalink.org.uk. This site will give you information about bus routes, although it does not show education 'e-route' services as these are not open to the public.

We would welcome your thoughts on the proposals. We will be consulting with parents for a two-week period starting on Monday 13th March and finishing on Sunday 26th March at midnight. If you have any comments about these proposed changes then please direct them to schooldayconsultation@presdales.herts.sch.uk.

At the end of the first week we will collate any similar enquiries and produce a Q&A sheet which will give a response to common questions or concerns raised. Please be advised that we are not able to reply individually to all comments. At the end of the consultation period all comments will be collated and shared with the governors for consideration before a final decision is made. This decision will be made by no later than Friday 21st April to give parents time to make any necessary travel arrangements for September.

The students and staff at Presdales will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Warren
Headteacher