



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. I am writing to let you know of a change to our start time in **September**.

What

From the start of September, all students within the school will start at **8:35am**. The warning bell will sound at 8:30am to allow all students to move to their correct area on time.

At 8:35am, Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will all go into the sports hall and gym. They will line up in their tutor groups and their tutor will take the morning register and check their equipment. Subsequently each head of year will be able to share any key messages, there will be a time when a member of the senior team shares a motivational message and a time where any student achievements are recognised. This time is called a '**morning welcome**' and will simply last for 10 minutes before students move to their tutor rooms. Year 11 and Post 16 students will go to their tutor rooms at 8:35am and will not attend the morning welcome.

All other timings of the day will remain exactly the same.

Time	Activity
8:30am	All students on site
8:35am	Morning Welcome (Years 7, 8, 9, 10) Tutor Time (Years 11, 12, 13)
8:45am	Tutor Time (Years 7, 8, 9, 10)
9:05am	Lesson 1
10:05am	Lesson 2
11:05am	Break Time
11:25am	Lesson 3
12:25pm	Lesson 4
1:25pm	Lunch Time
2:00pm	Lesson 5
3:00pm	Home Time for Years 7-10
4:00pm	Home Time for Years 11-13

Why

There are a number of reasons for introducing a 'morning welcome'.

Firstly, there is a lot of research that demonstrates the importance of starting the day off consistently and positively. Motivational messages can inspire students and provide a goal for individuals. Whilst we will still have weekly assemblies for year groups, building a collective spirit amongst year groups is also powerful and motivating, especially when key messages can be re-enforced daily. The morning welcome will also allow us to bring a more consistent approach to communication. Whole school messages can be passed directly to students rather than read through tutors. The checking of student's equipment, such as planners and pencil cases can also take place at this time. Currently, this takes place in tutor time and can take time



away from tutor group activities such as reading, intervention or other important aspects. It will therefore allow tutor time to be spent on learning and development rather than operational aspects.

Many of you know that we are very keen to celebrate success. Over the last couple of years, we have invested heavily in Class Charts and the associated reward system, in celebration assemblies, certificates and phone calls home. However, we also want to publicly recognise success. This again can be motivational to students when we share results of the school sports teams, the ten tors teams or recognise Alumni's achievements for example.

For Year 11 and Post 16 students the added time in their tutor time provides a greater opportunity to engage with their interventions. Since returning from lockdown we have been able to make a whole range of modifications to our curriculum to ensure all students catch up on any missed learning. During the last lockdown we followed our normal curriculum so we are confident all students will catch up. However, the tutor time in the older year groups has been a useful resource for students to have some personalised learning, to engage with interventions, to revise and engage with personal study. This added time will therefore benefit these students as they move towards their exams.

Ultimately, the morning welcome is only 10 minutes, yet its aim is significant. It will provide consistency, bring clear communication and motivate students, that in turn will bring more focused learning during tutor time.

When

This change will be starting for all students in September on returning to school. Information about lateral flow testing, dates and times will be sent out to you shortly. Therefore, once students have been tested and a negative result is received all students will be starting at 8:35am each morning and asked to be on site by 8:30am daily.

Finally

This academic year, we introduced a staggered start with different entrances for year groups. From September we are **not** planning for this as per the latest government guidance. However, schools have been asked to have a contingency plan should we need to re-introduce restrictions. This added time created could potentially be used to re-introduce any measures as a contingency, however we are hopeful that this will not be required.

Having worked through the idea of a morning welcome with governors, staff and a working group of students there is a really positive feel about the impact it can make. We firmly believe this will benefit students. I will of course keep you informed of this in September. As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Paul Skipp - Headteacher