



Dear Parents and Carers

I writing to you to seek your feedback on two significant issues related to next year

Part 1: Length of the school day from September 2022

In the February 2022 white paper the government set out the introduction of a minimum expectation for the length of the school week. The following extract is from that white paper.

“We will therefore introduce a minimum expectation on the length of the school week of 32.5 hours (the current average) for all mainstream state-funded schools. We will expect all mainstream state-funded schools to work towards meeting this expectation as soon as possible and by September 2023 at the latest.”

The position at Kimberley currently is that:

1. In September 2021 we lengthened morning registration by 5 minutes in order to provide more time for pastoral teams to ensure that students are set up for success for the rest of the day
2. This means that the current school day is 6 hours and 20 minutes and the length of the compulsory school week is 31 hours and 40 minutes
3. This is 50 minutes shorter than the governments’ new minimum expectation for the length of the school week
4. In order to address this shortfall we will need to lengthen each school day by 10 minutes.

The current timings of the school day are:

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Morning Registration/Assembly
9:00am – 10:00 am	Period 1
10:00 – 10:05 am	Movement Time
10:05 am – 11:05 am	Period 2
11:05 am – 11:20 am	Morning Break
11:20 am – 12:20 pm	Period 3
12:20 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 2:00 pm	Period 4
2:00pm – 2:05 pm	Movement Time
2:05 – 3:05 pm	Period 5

Currently there is no movement time at the start of period 1 and there is insufficient movement time at the start of period 3. This means that teaching time in these lessons is shorter than periods 2, 4 and 5. If, for example, a significant number of a Year 11 classes lessons in a subject are on period 1 and/or 3, then they will have less teaching time than a class that has all lessons on periods 2, 4 and 5. This is inevitably affecting the quality of education in these lessons.

Our intention is to use this opportunity to tackle this problem by introducing 5 minutes movement time at the start of period 1 and at the start of period 3.

The proposed timings of the school day from September 2022 are:

8:45 am – 9:00 am	Morning Registration/Assembly
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Movement Time
9:05am – 10:05 am	Period 1
10:05 am – 10:10 am	Movement Time
10:10 am – 11:10 am	Period 2
11:10 am – 11:25 am	Morning Break
11:25 am – 11:30	Movement Time
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Period 3
12:30 pm – 1:10 pm	Lunch
1:10pm – 2:10pm	Period 4
2:10pm – 2:15pm	Movement Time
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Period 5

We think there will be significant benefits to this change:

- Better quality of education in periods 1 and 3
- A calmer start to period 1 and period 3 for staff and students
- Teachers will have more time to set up lessons for period 1 and 3

Other models

We did consider two alternative approaches, all of which we have discounted. The first was to do nothing. Given the new government expectation and given the negative impact on the quality of education for periods 1 and 3 we do not believe that this is an option. We also considered extending social time – i.e. break/lunchtime. We discounted this, as we did not see how this would lead to an improvement in the quality of education and, indeed, felt that the lengthening of social time could have a detrimental impact on attitudes to learning at other times of the school day.

Consultation with Staff

I have already consulted on this proposal with staff and only two members of staff out of a workforce of over 150 did not agree with the proposal. Staff across the school can see the benefit of this change to their ability to deliver a high quality education to all students.

I do understand that this proposal will cause some inconvenience to some families, as this will mean that the school day now finishes at 3:15pm. However, we do have to increase the length of the school day by 10 minutes. I know that some families would prefer school to start 10 minutes early and some would prefer to start 10 minutes late. In adjusting to meet the governments' aim, I do understand that we will not be able to please everybody.

It is, therefore, important that I give families as much notice as possible so that they are able to plan to accommodate this change into their family routines. If you do wish to give us feedback on this proposal then please do complete the questionnaire using the link at the end of this letter.

Part 2: Parents' Consultation Evenings from September 2022

As part of the measures we put in place during the pandemic we have moved to online meetings for parents' evenings. Now that the Covid control measures have been removed I am consulting with both parents and staff so that I can gather their views before we make a decision on how to run Parents' Evenings next year.

Informally I have had significant positive feedback from parents and staff on the online meetings but it is important that there is a formal opportunity for everyone to express their views before we make a decision on how these evenings will run next year.

Our intention is that events where groups of parents attend (for instance Year 6 Induction, Year 11 GCSE tips, Year 9 Open Evening, 6th Form Open Evening....) will return to being face to face. Here I am seeking your views on the online one to one meetings with teachers on parents' evening. If you would like to share your views on this then please do complete part 2 of the questionnaire using the link at the end of this letter. I will also be seeking the views of school staff on this at the same time.

Consultation

If you would like to give feedback on either or both of these issues then please do complete this [short questionnaire](#) before the end of school on Monday 23rd May 2022. I will then use your feedback as I work with Senior Leaders and Governors to make final plans on these two issues for September. I will write to you shortly after May Half Term with the outcomes of these two consultations.

Yours faithfully



Andrew George
Head Teacher