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achievement for all

AGB/sr

15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Parents

### Proposed timings to school day

Thank you for your responses to the proposed changes to the school day. The overwhelming response from parents, pupils and staff were that the timings would have a positive impact on teaching and learning. To confirm, the timings of the school day from September are as follows:

08.40 am Pupils arrive on site  
08.45 am Lesson 1  
09.35 am Lesson 2  
10.25 am Break  
10.45 am Lesson 3  
11.35 am Lesson 4  
12.25 pm Lunch / Extra-curricular clubs  
13.05 pm Tutor time/assembly  
13.25 pm Lesson 5  
14.15 pm Lesson 6  
15.05 pm Out of School Learning / Extra-curricular clubs / End of school

### End of term arrangements

The school will be closing early on the last day of term Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 12.50 pm. Pupils will attend their normal lesson during period 4, following which they will immediately attend tutor time to receive their afternoon mark. After tutor time students are free to leave at 12.50 pm.

The Bistro will be providing a limited food service; sandwiches, drinks, biscuits and fruit will be available. All sandwiches will need to be pre-ordered before Wednesday (please ask your child to see their form tutor). For pupils who receive free school meals, they are also able to order a sandwich for that day to the usual value. Food can be collected at lunchtime.

If your child needs to stay on the school site for a longer period, or until the end of the normal school day, this can be arranged with students able to spend the time in the school library. Please feel free to contact your child's pastoral manager if you want to arrange



for them to stay in school or if you have any other queries/concerns.

### **Non school uniform day**

Pupils may come to school out of uniform if they wish to on the last day of term. This is on the condition that they make a contribution of at least £1 for the privilege. The proceeds will be donated towards the India Short Term Mission Trip that five sixth formers are fundraising for and attending in January 2016 through a sponsorship by Cheriton Baptist Church and the Rotary Club. Students will fund raise to take charitable donations with them to the Asha Kiran Special Needs school for children with disabilities.

Pupils may wear their school uniform if they prefer. They have been told that they are not to persuade you to purchase new clothes for the occasion and it is assumed that they will wear the clothes that they would normally wear at weekends. If your child has PE on the non-uniform day they are expected to bring their normal PE kit to wear during that lesson.

May I ask you to ensure that your child wears clothes that are appropriate for school which do not depict any reference to drugs or feature any other inappropriate logos or wording.

The purpose of this non-uniform day is to reward pupils for their good behaviour and standard of uniform. All pupils must hand their donation in to their tutor at the start of tutor time.

### **PE kit**

The school PE kit is to be worn in all practical lessons. This consists of a white t-shirt with the Pent Valley logo, navy shorts and navy socks with suitable footwear. Dependant on the sporting activity undertaken by your son/daughter additional items such as football boots, shin pads and gum shields may be needed. Your son/daughter will be told if they need any of these items before the term begins. The optional items that can be added to this include the Navy jumper, any dark (blue or black) thermal top to be worn under the student's normal PE top. This does not include leggings or hoodies. It is important to note that hair bands will be classified as PE kit for both males and females with long hair.

Should a student fail to bring in an item of PE kit, then they will receive a practical after school PE detention on the day after their PE lesson. Every time any item of PE kit is forgotten another detention will be issued.

### **Jewellery, makeup and nail varnish**

We have decided that we are going to have a zero tolerance to jewellery. From September, pupils are not allowed to wear any, apart from a wrist watch. It has proved very difficult to manage in terms of what plain studs are and there is a health and safety risk with sleeper ear-rings. Make up is only allowed to be worn by KS4 pupils and this must be discreet, if we can see it, they are wearing too much. We are also banning pupils from wearing nail varnish or acrylic nails for school. Parents, please can you continue to support with our high expectations so that we can concentrate on teaching and learning. We have a wonderfully smart uniform and pupils have been wearing it with pride, we very much believe that if you look smart, you think smart!

### **School meal arrangements**

The cost of the two course lunch is increasing in September to £2.20. Due to littering and the amount of food debris around the site we are not going to allow any takeaways from the Bistro from September. Pupils will have to sit and eat in the Bistro. Post 16 will have their own service in the sixth form area.



## School buildings

Over the summer the school site is being completely revamped with all temporary classrooms being removed and the footprint of the school being condensed into the existing bricks and mortar.

## September start of term arrangements

The new school term will start with a training day for teachers on Thursday 3rd September. Lessons will begin for Years 7 and 11 pupils on Friday 4th September at 08.45 am. Sixth form enrolment will also take place on Friday 4th September from 9 o'clock. Lessons for the remaining year groups will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 08.45 am.

## Open Parental Meeting

On 20<sup>th</sup> July, at 4pm and 5pm we will be holding an Open Parental meeting in the main school hall with the Executive Headteacher, Jon Whitcombe. I would be grateful if you could contact the school reception to inform us as to which time you would prefer so that we can plan accordingly.

## Who to contact

In order to speak to the right member of staff in school about your child, below is a guide as to who is responsible.

- Departments (subject teachers / subject leaders) - These should be the first port of contact for any concerns relating to a specific subject.
- Tutors - play a key role in student's well-being. Students make contact with their tutor every day and they are there for support and guidance.
- Pastoral managers - help out with the day to day organisation, welfare and behavioural issues for your child.
- Miss Ford for Year 7 & 8, Miss Stephenson for Year 9, Miss Slater for Year 10, Miss Davies for Year 11.
- Learning leaders - known as the 'student champions', available to discuss any issues related to learning and progress across all subjects. For year 7 & 8 Ms Bassan, Year 9 Mr Reygate, Year 10 Miss Kyle, Year 11 Mr Fearn.
- Miss Corner, Deputy Headteacher - oversees the academic success in year groups. Mr Prebble, Deputy Headteacher - breaks down the barriers to learning and dealing with serious behavioural issues.
- Headteacher - not as readily available as they may be in primary schools. See if someone else can help you first, if not, please book a meeting.

May I take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support for the school and I will be writing to you again before the end of the summer term with our termly newsletter.

Yours sincerely



MRS A M GIBSON  
Acting Headteacher

