



14 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

For over a year now, students at Guilsborough have been following a day structure based around three, 1 hour 40 minute lessons. Whilst this approach has been beneficial in minimising contact as a result of the pandemic, as well as affording greater opportunity for practical lessons, we appreciate some subjects are better taught in shorter, more frequent blocks.

As a leadership team, we have been considering models which will allow students to learn the majority of subjects in shorter lessons, while still allowing longer blocks of time for practical subjects like Design Technology and Physical Education. We now believe the time is right to begin the process of moving to a day based around five, 1 hour lessons, with double lessons scheduled for subjects where research shows this is beneficial for students.

The completion of building works around the site following the October half term has freed a significant amount of open space. As a result of this, we are confident students can move safely between lessons.

The timetable will revert to the 5 period day model following the February half term, this will allow us time to communicate timings to students and ensure everyone at Guilsborough is ready for this transition. We will ensure that students remain in the same groups as under the present timetable and in the majority of cases, with the same staff. Timetables will be shared with students and parents well in advance of the changeover.

We appreciate that it is not ideal to be changing a school timetable midway through an academic year, but we know this is the right decision for our students. The global pandemic has resulted in a number of changes during the last 21 months. We acknowledge the challenges these have brought and also the many benefits. We continually review our response and research shows that shorter lessons maintain levels of student engagement and reinforce learning as a result of more frequent 'revisiting' of knowledge.

Further information will follow in the New Year.

Yours faithfully

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