



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'

Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Proposed Changes to the School Day

I am writing to consult you about some exciting plans that we have regarding our school curriculum, teaching and learning, and also to the school day for September 2019. It is our intention to build on our recent 'Good' Ofsted outcome. We want to move the school towards "Outstanding" in all aspects of its provision and outcomes and I am confident if we work together (staff, pupils, Governors and parents) we can achieve this.

At St George's School we plan to operate a longer working day. An extended day will provide pupils with more time in the classroom to acquire skills, knowledge and understanding, as well as more opportunities to participate in a wide range of curricular activities. There are no shortcuts to success.

The Government has identified that longer school days could help improve the performance of children. The Department for Education has suggested that the extra time could be used to introduce "focused teaching" aimed at boosting pupils' confidence and understanding.

As part of our commitment to continually raise standards and be 'the best', in line with our vision, we feel that adding an extra 15 minutes a day for year 7-10 and an additional 45 minutes a day for year 11 will help improve outcomes.

Changes to Registration/Tutor Group Time

From 1st September, we plan to extend registration/tutor group time to 30 minutes. This will allow for a more purposeful and productive start to the school day.

For example, we intend to run structured activities such as Accelerated Reader & Bedrock learning (literacy), retrieval & revision sessions, English, Maths, Science and RE interventions and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) to help develop our pupils in a wider and a more holistic sense. This time will also be used for quality worship, rewards and aspiration assemblies.

Compulsory period 6 for Year 11

All year 11 pupils would attend their option subjects for an additional 30 minutes on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (3.00 – 3.30pm).

Changes to the School Day/Week

In order to facilitate these important changes that I believe will help us to move the school forward; we will need to make some changes to the timings of the school day/week. From 1st September 2019, the school day would officially start 10 minutes earlier at 8.30 am. All pupils would be expected to be on site 5 minutes before this (8.25am) and be lined up outside their classrooms for a prompt start at 8.30 am.

Lateness will not be tolerated as it impacts not only on the learning of the individual but also other pupils in the class.

The school day would finish at 3.00pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday for Year 7-10 and 3.30pm for Year 11. On Thursday all years will finish at 2.40pm, to allow us to continue with our well established staff training programme.

For your information, I have included below, a summary of the proposed new start and finish times from 1st September 2019.

Lesson	Proposed for September 2019
All pupils on-site	08.25 - 08.30 (transition)
Form/Worship/Intervention & support sessions	08.30 - 09.00
1	09.00 - 10.00
2	10.00 - 11.00
	Break
3	11:20 - 12:20
4	12:20 - 13.20
	Lunch
5	14.00 - 15.00 *Thursday finish 2.40pm
6 (Year 11 only)	15.00 - 15.30

In summary, the new school curriculum and school day/week would enable us as a school, to provide greater stretch and challenge, alongside support and intervention for our pupils. The curriculum model is highly innovative and responsive to the needs and aspirations of our pupils.

The additional time would mean that a pupil throughout their 5 years at St George's would experience an additional 13 days' worth of teaching per year. This equates to a staggering 13 weeks of additional teaching time over a 5 year school career. This creative addition can only be a positive one for pupils.

It is hoped that these changes to the start and end time of the school day will not cause any major disruption to the morning and evening travel patterns of the pupils and that parents will understand and welcome our continued commitment to improving your child's education and being the best school we can possibly be.

We would like to know what your thoughts are on changing the school day in the way described above. Please email any comments to schoolday@stgeorgesblackpool.co.uk by Friday 14th June 2019.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. G Warnock
Headteacher