

Lincoln Christ's Hospital School

A Specialist Language College and Academy
Educating in Lincoln since 1090



7th January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Timings of the school day

I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges 2016 will bring!

As you know, the term long consultation with students, staff, parents and governors has now come to an end. Thank you for all of the replies and suggestions you have sent in.

On Wednesday 16th December 2015 I met with the full Governing Body (including parent and staff governors) to discuss a way forward. All governors had the full feedback from all stakeholders and we discussed at length the advantages and disadvantages of our current day, along with possible solutions using all of the feedback.

The governors have decided to move forward using the following four guiding principles:

- All students will have no less than 60 minutes of free time each day.
- All students will have, in addition, a total of 10 minutes (two x 5 minutes) between lessons for travel/changeover/comfort break to ensure all lessons start promptly with excellent punctuality, with one hour of learning being guaranteed.
- All students will have 25 hours per week of lesson time, to be split into 5 x 1 hour lessons per day (please note this is different for some students in Key Stage 4 and 5 in particular options or intervention lessons).
- Tutor time is to be 20 minutes every morning to allow time for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) sessions to take place, along with the promotion of British Values. These sessions will primarily focus on student welfare and safety and will also support progression and personal growth.

For the school to fulfil the above four principles, the day will be changed to 8.30am to 3pm thus extending the day by 10 minutes. However, all of the 10 minutes will be dedicated to free time. While this does mean that our school day is extended by 10 minutes to 3pm, we remain one of the earliest finishing schools in Lincoln.

This will be in place no later than September 2016.

However, the feedback from all stakeholders also overwhelmingly requests an in-year alteration to be considered. With this in mind, our Principal Finance Officer is looking into the possibility of moving this date forward but this will be very much dependent on logistical issues beyond our control, such as changing bus times to ensure all bus companies give the same level of service. If we are unable to move to this mid-year, I will be investigating a short-term alteration to increase free time within our current timings as a temporary measure until September.

These decisions have not been taken lightly but given the overwhelming opinion from the majority, along with all of the positives and negatives highlighted in the discussions, this is the best solution to guarantee high quality lesson time, adequate downtime and social time along with ensuring student welfare and safety.

I will inform you of any further updates as soon as possible. Can I also encourage you to sign up to Parent Mail if you have not already done so and consider following @LCHSed on Twitter for our latest updates and news?

Thank you for your time and continued support.

Yours sincerely

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