

Dear parents and carers

I need to make you aware of our proposals for some changes to the school day for September, and why we want to make the changes. It will make very little difference to the start and end times of the day, but we believe will make a big difference to the quality of education for our young people.

### LIFE time change

Currently, all students have a half hour LIFE lesson every day, next to their lunch time. LIFE lessons contain all the hugely important skills many of us wish we were taught at school – to do with health, relationships, money matters, being a good citizen – everything to help prepare them for life in modern Britain. Instead of a short slot each day, we want to devote a full 65 minute lesson to this each week. This will appear at a different time each week, and importantly, still taught by the tutor, who knows the students the best. We think this extended time will allow a deeper understanding of the important issues and LIFE lessons students need.

### Tutor time change

We think that extending tutor time in the morning from 10 minutes to 20 minutes gives students and tutors a better chance to get ready for the school day, setting expectations, and having time to discuss important issues.

### Government guidelines

You may also be aware that the government has set out expectations for how many hours children should spend in school each day, and over a week. The expectation is that children spend 6 and a half hours in school each day. This has a very small impact on our school day, but will mean that instead of a 30 minute shorter day on Wednesday, every day from September will now be the same. It adds 5 minutes to the normal finish time – so 3pm instead of 2.55pm. **These are the only differences to start and finish times of the day.**

<b>Current school day</b>	Tutor time	8.30 – 8.40	10 minutes
	Lesson 1	8.40-9.40	60
	Lesson 2	9.40-10.40	60
	Break	10.40-10.55	15
	Lesson 3	10.55 – 11.55	60
	Lunch/LIFE split over year groups	11.55 – 12.25	30
	Lunch/LIFE split over year groups	12.25 – 12.55	30
	Lesson 4	12.55 – 13.55	60
	Lesson 5	13.55 – 14.55	60

<b>Proposed new school day</b>	All year groups	Tutor time	8.30 – 8.50	20 minutes
		Lesson 1	8.50 - 9.55	65
		Lesson 2	9.55 - 11.00	65
		Break	11.00 - 11.15	15
	Year 7, 9 and 11	Lesson 3	11.15 – 12.20	65
		Lunch	12.20 – 12.50	30
	Year 8 and 10	Lesson 4	12.50 – 13.55	65
		Lesson 4	12.20 - 13.25	65
	All year groups	Lunch	13.25 - 13.55	30
		Lesson 5	13.55 – 15.00	65

There will be two things that will feel particularly different for students. One is that there is one less event in the day – the LIFE lesson. As mentioned, this will happen within normal lesson time, replacing a different lesson each week. We think this makes the day easier to manage for all students, as well as improving their LIFE education.

The other difference will be that for some students, lunch will be slightly earlier than they are used to – for others it will be later than they are used to. Splitting lunch either side of an afternoon lesson is something that many schools do, including in the local area. In most schools, it isn't possible to have all students have lunch at the same time. We know from experiences in other schools that students on the later lunch quickly get used to the change. It will be important to remind students that they can eat at break as well as at lunchtime if they want to. Free school meal funds will be available at break and lunch as necessary.

If you have questions or comments regarding the changes to the school day, please either call the school on 0114 232 2338, or email [enquiries@chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@chaucer.sheffield.sch.uk)

I will confirm the final arrangements for the school day in September in the last week of this term, so please do get in touch before that final week with questions or comments.

Yours Sincerely



Joanna Crewe

Headteacher