



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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Campus Whitehaven, Red Lonning, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8UG

Head Teacher: Emma Jackson

11 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Proposal to change the length of the school day

As you may be aware, the Department for Education has introduced a new requirement that all schools must provide a 32.5-hour school week. It is worth noting that this requirement does not relate to lesson time in the week, rather it affects to the total amount of time that students are in school including registration, breaks and lunchtimes as well as lessons.

Whilst the amount of time students at St Benedict's spend in lessons is in line with, or exceeds, most other schools currently we do not meet this new requirement by 35 minutes. Therefore, I am writing to propose changes to the school day, with effect from September 2024, to ensure that we do meet this new requirement.

From 1st September 2024

- Monday to Friday the school day will begin at 08:35
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the school day will finish at 15:30.
- Thursday and Friday the school day will end at 14:30 (This is the same as the current school day)

The additional time will be built into the school day, in particular within tutor and assembly time, to further enhance the provision of personal development that every student participates in as well as to give additional time to enable our students to be supported by their form tutor, head of year and learning mentor.

The school transport providers are being made aware of these proposals and school bus timings will be changed accordingly to match the new start and finish times.

You are welcome to share any feedback you may have regarding this change using the following email address by Wednesday 20th March.

schooldayconsultation@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk

Whilst we may not respond to any feedback given directly, we will take all views expressed into consideration. A final confirmation of the school day will be shared with students, parents and the wider community on Monday 25th March.

Yours faithfully

Emma Jackson
Headteacher



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