



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs BA (Hons)**
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

20 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Consultation with parents: new timings of the school day

I wrote to parents and carers on 11th June to let you know of a necessity to change the timings of our school day, following DfE guidance to adopt a minimum core school week of 32.5 hours as statutory from September 2024. For us at Ripley, it means the school day is required to finish at 3:10pm instead of 3pm.

For many families, my letter will have been received as a notification of a change with no need to reply, however, I gave parents/carers the opportunity to respond using a Microsoft Forms if they wished to express any thoughts. Many thanks to those who did raise queries to me.

9 parents/carers responded to the consultation to express their views and I address any comments here below.

1. One parent/carer highlighted that children are in school early enough and finishing later would not be a good thing due to after school commitments. **Thank you for your comment but this is a Government approach so I have been mandated to make the change. If it does reassure parents/carers, however, our school day is one of the shortest across the Trust and in the local area and so the students will be falling more in line with the national practice.**
2. One parent/carer expressed they felt this approach would help eliminate late marks to lessons and is a good idea. **Thank you for the feedback. We are hopeful you are right and this will give us an opportunity to impact punctuality to lessons and give each lesson the full hour slot it is planned for.**
3. One parent/carer asked about the students who have to catch the school bus **We do not run a school bus as such but have a very small minority of students who catch public transport to and from school who would need to look at bus timetables and ensure they plan to take a bus at the right time home. If you would like support in looking at individual cases then please don't hesitate to contact enquiries@ripleyacademy.org who can assist you with this.**
4. One parent/carer expressed a disagreement with the decision from the Government to enforce a 32.5 hour mandatory week and was concerned about the impact on after school clubs. **Again, thank you for your comment but this is a Government approach so I have been mandated to make the change. After school clubs will still run but will take place from 3:10pm instead of 3pm and in the usual way and will still last the usual amount of time as currently.**



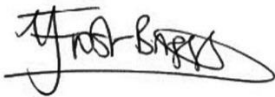
5. One further parent/carer raised a concern that not all children might get chance to get something at break as the queues are too long or they don't fancy what's on the menu at breaktime and then it's a long wait until lunchtime. By means of reassurance, currently all students are able to use the refectory at break time in plenty of time. At the moment, we run to time of getting all students through the queue in the first 15 minutes of break time and nobody is ever sent away with no time to eat. We will monitor this carefully and are amending the team's hours to incorporate the additional 10 minutes to ensure we have sufficient coverage to continue an efficient service. At break time, there continues to be a wide variety of options available: the deli, fresh fruit pots, granola pots, waffles, sausage rolls and paninis daily at break. On top of these daily items, are hot food items of the day which vary according to the day of the week and include calzone, breakfast muffins, breakfast wraps, bacon/sausage cobs, chicken burgers and teardrop naan bread pizzas. At lunchtime the hot main course of the day is served along with a pasta alternative, the deli bar and jacket potatoes. Mrs Craske, the Catering Manager, meets with the Student Council to regularly review the meal options and respond accordingly. Recently, for example, she introduced a noodle bar and theme day of the week as the students asked for a wider diversity of options and requested an oriental theme.
6. One parent/carer felt that movement time was a good idea but was concerned about how late this made lunchtime for the children. Another parent/carer supported this concern and expressed more children are eating at breaktime. I did consider adding ten minutes to the beginning of the school day or extending a lesson time to focus on additional reading. Both of these options would reach the same outcome of delaying the start time of lunch. The only option of merit I considered which protects lunchtime in its current slot was to introduce a "line-up" / mini tutor slot after lunchtime for students to re-group, however, during the staff consultation this option was significantly unpopular due to a concern that students would not benefit from this time and would be tempted to be later to period 5 lessons as a consequence.
7. One parent/carer conveyed a concern about toilets saying there are not enough toilets for this to happen and everyone will have to queue outside the toilets making students late to lessons if students are in there in groups. They also raised a concern about having year group delegated toilets and how this would impact lateness to lesson finding those during movement time. We do function with year group delegated toilet zones but this zoning is only in operation at break and lunchtime. At all other times, including movement time, students are, and will be, allowed to use any facility, regardless of zoning. We are hopeful this will help in ensuring all students can visit the toilet at more regular intervals during the day, for their comfort. We have also increased the supervision of toilets at break time.

Thank you to all those parents/carers who support the change or who indeed raised the concerns above. With such a minority in opposition to the move, I can conclude the end of the consultation and the outcome that the timings of the school day will be as per the below from September 2024.

8:40-9:00am	Tutor time
9am-10:00am	Period 1
10am-10:05am	Movement time
10:05-11:05am	Period 2
11:05-11:25am	BREAK
11:25-12:25pm	Period 3
12:25-12:30pm	Movement time
12:30-1:30pm	Period 4
1:30-2:10pm	LUNCH
2:10-3:10pm	Period 5

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs

Executive Head Teacher

John Flamsteed Community School and The Ripley Academy