



Beaumont School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the outcomes of our consultation about changing the timings of the school day, which closed on 27 March 2026. Thank you for taking the time to read about our proposals and we are grateful for all the feedback we have received.

We received twenty-nine responses to our consultation, twelve of which were in favour of the proposed change and ten of which were opposed to it. The remaining seven responses were neutral, saw both pros and cons or did not express an opinion at all.

Aspects of the proposed change which featured positively in the consultation were the reduced number of transitions between lessons during the school day and the smaller number of GCSEs taken by most students, without losing the option for others to continue taking ten qualifications. Aspects which raised concerns were the increased length of each lesson and the loss of the early finish on Fridays.

Since we received more positive responses than negative, and the number of negative responses as a proportion of the entire body of Beaumont families is very small indeed, we will move forward with our plans. Our intended date to implement change remains September 2028, and we will be in touch with further information as we progress towards that time.

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the questions which were raised in the consultation. They can be found below.

Is it fair to expect children to concentrate for lessons lasting one hour?

Lessons lasting one hour are the norm in schools both locally and nationally, including many highly successful ones, so we do not see this as a barrier to excellent outcomes. It is worth noting that under our current timetable arrangements we have plenty of double lessons, lasting 90 minutes, which do not prevent our students from succeeding. We recognise that some of our students struggle with concentration, but the challenges of the new timings will be mitigated by the fact that fewer lessons in a day will mean less content to take in and a less frenetic pace. We have confidence in our teachers to present material in an accessible way, breaking it down and varying activities, so that our students can continue to thrive under the new timings.

Could lunch begin earlier than 1:15pm?

We do appreciate that 1:15pm is quite late for the lunch break, especially for younger students, who are used to an earlier lunch at primary school. However, there is no practical way of avoiding this. Break cannot be shortened if we are to give every student the opportunity to purchase a



drink and/or a snack, and we do not wish to push back the fourth lesson of the day until after lunch because everyone tends to be more tired later in the school day. The new lunchtime will be only twenty minutes later than the current one and we would encourage students to have a nutritious snack at break to keep up their energy levels, as many of them already do.

Could the lunch break be longer?

We reflected carefully before proposing a lunch break five minutes shorter than it is currently. We believe it will still be long enough for all students to get through our serveries and also to maintain our impressive range of extra-curricular activities. Extending lunchtime to one hour would mean pushing the end of the school day back by five minutes, and we do not wish to do this, because we think finishing at 3:10pm each day would be a very positive move for student wellbeing.

Will it be possible to maintain the current range of GCSE options?

We have modelled the likely options based on student preferences and we believe we will be able to maintain the wide range of GCSE courses of which we are very proud, without needing to cut subjects.

How will home learning be affected by a two week timetable?

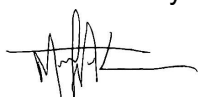
Since the differences between each week will be kept to a minimum, and since each subject will continue to be taught each week, we anticipate home learning being able to stay much as it is now. The only thing that might need to be adjusted is the due date, in the case of subjects which have lessons on different days in each week. However, we will continue to ensure that students have a reasonable amount of time to complete each home learning task.

How will twenty minutes of tutor time be used each day?

Currently we have thirteen minutes of tutor time each day, plus an extended tutor period of one hour on Thursdays. The extended tutor time will not be possible under the new model, so much of what happens then will need to be transferred to the other days, including assemblies. This means that the additional minutes each day will be invaluable in order to maintain our strong pastoral curriculum.

Thank you once again for taking the time to understand why we are planning a change and for the faith your responses showed in the school to make decisions in the best interests of our students. Our commitment remains to them, both now and when we make the changes, and we look forward to their ongoing success throughout this process.

Yours sincerely



Mr Atkinson

Headteacher