

TRN/kw

Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Curriculum and Staffing 2025

I hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to inform you of an important change to our lesson structure for the upcoming academic year. After careful consideration and consultation with staff, we have decided to adjust the timetable for our students by moving from the current structure of five 60 minute lessons per week to four 75-minute lessons per subject.

This change will take effect from the 7th January 2025 and is intended to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for all students by reducing the number of cover teachers and split classes in the school. The change will also enable more effective preparation for public exams, and provide students who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) with greater consistency and support.

Key Changes:

- Current Structure: Five 60 minute lessons per week.
- New Structure: Four 75 minute lessons per week.

Benefits of the Change:

1. **Consistency for Year 11 and Year 13 Students:** We want to reassure you that this change will not affect the teaching staff for Year 11 and Year 13 students. They will continue to be taught by their current teachers, ensuring stability and consistency in their learning experience. Our teachers have worked hard to design a curriculum that is both supportive and challenging, and we are confident that the longer lessons will further enhance their ability to deliver high-quality, engaging instruction.
2. **Support for SEN Students:** One of the key reasons for this change is to better support our SEN students. Extended lesson times will allow for more flexibility in teaching, providing students with the opportunity to engage more deeply with content, participate in discussions, and receive the additional support they need in a more focused and less rushed environment. Longer lessons also mean that students will have more time to work on tasks in class, receive personalised feedback, and reduce the pressure of needing to complete assignments or activities in shorter periods.
3. **Improved Exam Preparation:** For Year 11 and Year 13 students, the transition to longer lessons will also have significant benefits in terms of preparing for their upcoming exams. With the extra time in each lesson, teachers will be able to structure more comprehensive review sessions, including targeted revision activities, mock exam practice, and group work that promotes deeper understanding. Longer lessons will

also allow for better integration of subject-specific revision and a more focused approach to exam techniques, helping students to consolidate their knowledge in preparation for assessments.

The new school day will look like this:

Time of day	Activity
08:40am - 09:00am	Tutor
09:00am - 10:15am	Lesson 1
10:15am - 11:30am	Lesson 2
11:30am - 11:50am	Break
11:50am - 1:00pm	Lesson 3
1:00pm - 1:35pm	Lunch
1:35pm - 2:00pm	Tutor (Worship / Reading)
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Lesson 4

We understand that any change to the school timetable may raise questions or concerns. We are running a coffee morning on Wednesday 4th December following the presentation evening on Monday 2nd December. Another coffee morning will run on Tuesday 17 December at 9:30am. We are also happy to address questions through one to one discussions if needed. Our priority is always to ensure that your child receives the best possible educational experience, and we believe this adjustment will significantly contribute to their academic success and overall well-being.

In addition to the curriculum changes that we are making, we are pleased to welcome several members of staff to the school in January 2025. These include:

1. Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour and Attitudes
2. Lead Practitioner: English
3. Lead Practitioner: Mathematics
4. Lead Practitioner: Science
5. Teacher of Mathematics

Thank you for your continued support. A series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' are included below. Should you have any further questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

If you have any queries please contact office@queenelizabeths.com

Yours sincerely



Mr Neill
Headteacher

Question	Answer
When are students being told about these changes?	In a series of assemblies before the end of term.
My child is in year 11 / year 13. Will they keep the same teachers?	Yes, unless their teacher is one of a small number who are leaving at the end of term. Where this is the case, the replacement teachers are experienced specialists.
What happens in September?	The plan is to retain the four-lesson day moving forwards.
Will the Arbor migration affect this change?	No – the timetable is being built now and will be printed in hard copy in case of any problems with Arbor in January.
My child has additional needs. How will this change affect them?	We believe this will benefit SEN students. Less cognitive load, fewer split classes.