



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide you with information about changes to our school day for next academic year and to consult on arrangements for parent evenings. The information and proposed changes will only affect secondary pupils; there are no changes to primary school timings.

Timings of the school day - information

From next academic year, the timings of the school day will change for secondary pupils to allow more time for collective worship and pastoral activities, and to allow staff time to meet as departmental and pastoral teams.

| Current model | | | New model | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Mon - Fri | | Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri | | Wed | |
| AM | 8:30 - 8:50 | 20 min | 8:20 - 8:50 | 30 min | 8:20 - 8:40 | 20 min |
| P1 | 8:50 - 9:45 | 55 min | 8:50 - 9:45 | 55 min | 8:40 - 9:30 | 50 min |
| P2 | 9:45 - 10:40 | 55min | 9:45 - 10:40 | 55 min | 9:30 - 10:20 | 50 min |
| Break | 10:40 - 11:00 | 20 min | 10:40 - 10:55 | 15 min | 10:20 - 10:35 | 15 min |
| P3 | 11:00 - 11:55 | 55 min | 10:55 - 11:50 | 55 min | 10:35 - 11:25 | 50 min |
| P4 | 11:55 - 12:50 | 55 min | 11:50 - 12:45 | 55 min | 11:25 - 12:15 | 50 min |
| P5a (lunch A) | 12:50 - 13:45 (12:50 - 13:40) | 55 min 50 min | 12:45 - 13:40 | 55 min | 12:15 - 13:05 | 50 min |
| P5b (lunch B) | 13:40 - 14:35 (13:45 - 14:35) | 55 min 50 min | 13:40 - 14:35 | 55 min | 13:05 - 13:55 | 50 min |
| P6 | 14:35 - 15:30 | 55 min | 14:35 - 15:30 | 55 min | 13:55 - 14:45 | 50 min |
| Meeting | 15:30 – 16:45 (Mon) | | | | 15:00 - 15:45 15:45 – 17:00 | 45 min 1h 15 min |
| Daily total | | 5h 30 min | | 5h 30 min | | 5h |
| Weekly total | | 27h 30 min | | | | 27h |

Collective Worship

We currently have 20 minutes each morning for collective worship and/or pastoral activities, however this is not sufficient to meet the Trust collective worship policy. By adding 10 minutes to the start of the day, staff will have time to register pupils and attend to any form time notices, and then students will still have a full 20 minutes for collective worship or assembly.

In the summer 2 term, we will be running a 4-day collective worship trial for Year 7 and 8 students. This trial will see greater choice for how students want to develop their spiritual insight. Further details of the trial will be provided after the May half-term break.

Staff CPD and Meetings

Avanti Schools Trust has been enhancing the CPD provision for staff across all of their schools and are seeking greater alignment of training sessions from next academic year. Trust-wide and whole school CPD will move to a Wednesday afternoon from 3:45pm. With this change, the time allocated for in-school meetings will be reduced. By shortening each lesson on Wednesday by 5 minutes, this will allow Avanti Fields staff to meet as department and pastoral teams prior to Trust-wide training. The benefits of this time for staff and students are outlined below.

- More consistent curriculum planning will allow staff to:
 - share best practice and discuss effective learning and teaching pedagogy;



- discuss how they adapt the curriculum for student needs;
- collaborate with teaching assistants to continue to ensure SEND provision is meeting student needs;
- complete moderation of assessments.
- More consistent curriculum planning will benefit students by:
 - reducing the variability of learning and teaching practice between teachers;
 - ensure that the curriculum is adapted for their needs (SEND/PP/EAL), with well-planned resources and input from teaching assistants;
 - having tailored feedback on learning to support progression and knowledge building following assessment periods.
- More time for pastoral teams to meet will allow staff to:
 - analyse student attendance and behaviour to pick up on trends earlier for more effective intervention;
 - discuss and plan strategies for vulnerable students, including tailored learning and behaviour plans where required;
 - recognise student achievement and plan celebration events;
 - discuss and deliver year-group specific opportunities to further develop student's character.
- More time for pastoral teams will benefit students by:
 - ensuring that every child has potential barriers to learning removed at the earliest opportunity;
 - having all staff aware of any learning or behavioural concerns that affect learning and have effective strategies put in place;
 - having regular and timely recognition of achievements and opportunities for extra-curricular events.

Extra-curricular Clubs Offer

With the proposed changes, the secondary extra-curricular (clubs) offer would run at the following times:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- Wednesday 2:45pm – 3:45pm

The school will continue to coordinate both internal, school-based clubs and externally provided clubs. Fixtures will continue to run in line with city wide schedules.

School Transport

Further details of bus arrangements will be confirmed later in the summer term, however we will be ensuring that the bus service meets the needs of the school.

Parent evening timings - consultation

This year, the school has trialled an early finish for secondary students to accommodate an extended period for parent evenings. Five early finish afternoons were planned for this year to allow staff to have more appointment slots available to meet with parents.

Throughout the year, I have received feedback from a number of parents around the early finish and would like to go to consultation prior to confirming the calendar for next academic year.

Current model:

Early finish at 12:50pm, with appointments beginning from 2pm-7pm. Students are provided remote learning work for period 5 and 6 lessons. Staff block out 30 minutes for break. This allows for 54 appointments. Staff have time to travel home to conduct their appointments.

Alternative model 1:

Normal finish at 3:30pm, with appointments beginning from 4pm-7pm. No remote learning provision is needed. Staff block out 15 minutes for break. This allows for 33 appointments. Staff would likely need to conduct appointments at school.

Alternative model 2:

Early finish at 2:45pm (use of shorter Wednesday timings), with appointments beginning from 3pm – 7pm. No remote learning provision is needed. Staff block out 20 minutes for break. This allows for 44 appointments. Staff would likely need to conduct appointments at school.

Please note that for both alternative models, parents may not be able to make an appointment with all of their child's teachers, particularly if that teacher has two classes within the same year group. Staff would not be asked to contact parents individually if they are unable to make an appointment.

Should you wish to provide your views on the parent evening timing consultation, can you please complete the following form by Friday 26th May.

<https://avanti.wufoo.com/forms/afs-parent-consultation-on-parent-evenings/>

I believe that these changes will be of significant benefit to the school for the reasons outlined above. If you have a view on the timings of the school day information, please email to vanessa.bardsley1@avanti.org.uk. If you would like to provide include your voice in the parent evening consultation, please complete the above form. Feedback and consultation for both the timings of the school day and parent evening consultation will end at 12pm on Friday 26th May 2023. I will inform all stakeholders of the outcome of the consultation process no later than Friday 9th June 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Bardsley
Principal