

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Changes to the school day – 2021-22**

As you will be aware, since our return in September 2020, we have been following a 'Covid school day' and timetable. Whilst this has presented its own challenges, we have been able to take the opportunity to identify positives that the new style of school day has brought about for both our students and staff. As we \*hopefully\* begin to move out of 'Lockdown', it is time for us to begin to think about a return to a 'new normal' and we are therefore seeking your views on our proposed school day for September 2021.

*In summary, the proposal seeks to ensure:*

1. A change to lunchtimes to maintain the advantages of the Covid school day system, whilst mitigating any of the issues it has caused, such as limited/restricted space for students to 'play';
2. A finish time that is consistent for all year groups;
3. The reintroduction of 'tutor time';
4. Six 50-minute lessons to maximise curriculum time for all subjects;
5. The introduction of a compulsory Period 7 for selected Year 10 and Year 11 students who require additional support;
6. The reintroduction of a more traditional 'break time' for students

### **Potential questions:**

#### **Why do Year 7 and Year 11 start their day earlier?**

In September 2021, students will continue to use separate entrances to enter school at staggered times. This enables us to have a calm, well ordered start to our day. We want to ensure that our Year 7 students are given the opportunity to settle in to life at NUSA as smoothly as they can as they have not been given opportunity to visit NUSA on many occasions due to the pandemic.

#### **Is 30 minutes long enough for lunch?**

In short, yes. We were in a position previously where our queues for lunch have been very long meaning some students have had to rush their lunch. Having a split lunch means that students will have to queue for less time, allowing them longer to eat and socialise with friends.

**Will my child be able to buy snacks at break?**

We are currently working on a plan with Aspens, our catering providers, to ensure that all students will have opportunity to buy snacks for break during the week. We would always encourage students to bring their own healthy snacks where they can, as again, this reduces the need to queue and maximises their time to socialise.

**Our children were restricted this year for lunch spaces due to 'Covid bubbles'. Will they have limited spaces from September 2021?**

No, students will be able to eat in the canteen and will also have an indoor and outdoor space to socialise.

**How will I know if my child in Year 10 or Year 11 will be required to stay for Period 7?**

Following a progress check, where a child is identified as falling below their expected grade in Year 10 and Year 11, we will be asking that they stay in school for 'Period 7' where they will receive small group tuition to enable them to catch up in the subjects they are behind in. You will be notified with adequate lead time by letter if your child is required to stay.

**Will there be extra-curricular activities after school?**

Yes. We will write with further details on extra-curricular activities as and when new clubs are announced. Details of this will also be available on our website.

**Why do the students leave at different times?**

We have really benefitted this year from the staggered departure of our students to ensure a calm, safe and orderly exit from our school site.

**Proposed school day for 2021-22**

School day		
	<b>Year 7 and Year 11 – Period 1 (start of school day)</b>	08:35
	<b>Y8, 9 and 10 - Period 1 (start of school day)</b>	08:45
	<b>Period 2</b>	09:35
	<b>Break</b>	10:25
	<b>Period 3</b>	10:40
	<b>Period 4</b>	11:30
	<b>Lunch – see table below</b>	
	<b>Student briefing</b>	13:00
	<b>Period 5</b>	13:20
	<b>Period 6</b>	14:10
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Finish</b>	15:00
<b>Year 8 and 9</b>	<b>Finish</b>	15:05
<b>Year 10 and 11</b>	<b>Finish – dependent on intervention</b>	15:10
<b>Period 7</b>	<b>Select KS4 students</b>	15:50

\*On a Friday, all of Year 10 and Year 11 will finish at 3:10pm.

**Lunch**

Year group	Lunch time	Lesson time
Year 7 and NUSA16	11:30 – 12:00	12:00 – 13:00
Year 8 and Year 10	12:00 – 12:30	11:30 – 12:00 and 12:30 – 13:00
Year 9 and Year 11	12:30 – 13:00	11:30 – 12:30

We would welcome your views on the re-organisation of the our school day. Although it will not be possible to respond to all individual questions, all comments will be considered, and your views are very much appreciated. We look forward to hearing your feedback via email ([contact@nusa.org.uk](mailto:contact@nusa.org.uk)) by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Howard'.

Mrs Emma Howard  
Head of School