



20 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to September 2021 academic year.

Further to my letter dated 30 March 2021 on the consultation on the changes for September 2021, I can now confirm the changes will take place as detailed in the consultation letter. We have carefully considered all feedback and are grateful for your support.

School Day, Enrichment and Transport

The new school day provides enrichment opportunities for all of our students to experience a range of activities as part of our broad curriculum at St Katherine's. We recognise the later finish time might be initially disruptive for some families and would hope new routines can be established ready for September 2021.

On a Monday, the buses will depart at 4pm and we strongly encourage families to use the school buses for safe and reliable transport to and from school. For more information on this, please contact the visitor reception team on 01275 373737. First Bus will not be running the X4s bus which has been running this year as part of the COVID 19 provision to reduce transmission within the community. We continue to work closely with First Bus and each year they review all their timetables. They are unable to guarantee alignment with any school finishing time. Our transport routes are revised each year to reduce the average travel time and we will consider adding additional stops where possible to accommodate families. Pick up times for September will be approximately 10 minutes earlier than this year.

Split lunchtime

The split lunchtime provides improved access to our canteen for each year group. We have been working with a consultant to ensure Aspens delivers a high quality offer and sufficient quantity of food to all students at both break and lunchtime. We will be working closely with the consultant and Aspens to ensure this is the case each day and will involve students in this process next term in preparation for September.

Opportunities for clubs during the lunchtime period will be restricted to the year group split which we will confirm next term. Building on some of the structures we have used this year, we will be zoning areas of the school for break and lunchtimes, taking full advantage of our generous site and to protect the learning environment in lessons during lunchtime.

Staggered exits

The staggered exits ensure a safe and orderly exit from the school, for both students catching buses and for those students walking down the hill towards Pill. This managed exit means no student or staff member is required to rush at the end of each day and with our new single bus provider, no bus leaves until all students are in their allocated seat with their seat belt fastened.

After school detentions on Tuesdays and Thursdays

These are designed to help correct the approach of young people who sometimes fail to adjust their approach to school. Children who live locally will be able to walk home and we will provide transport for those who need it to get home. We have deliberately placed detentions on evenings when our Monday enrichment does not take place as we want all students to benefit from our full curriculum each week.

Uniform

The new school uniform, chosen by students, is designed to improve standards and reduce variation across the school. Our phased introduction and purchase of items for those in Years 8 and 9 recognises the impact this can bring to families. The school will support families who are in financial difficulties or for whom the cost of school uniform is a challenge. For any child in receipt of Pupil Premium, there is a 10% discount applied to all uniform items by the supplier in addition to school support, reducing the overall cost when compared to previous years.

We expect the quality to be better and all other trust schools have reported positively on the provider and quality of the uniform. We will always make adjustments where there are legitimate reasons and this should be discussed with your child's Head of House. Our PE kit will remain with our current supplier in Portishead although, based on recent student feedback, we will be reviewing this with students and families in Term 6.

We are excited about the changes we are making for September and believe these changes will offer all students the richest curriculum offer and experiences as the school continues to grow. Thank you for your continued support. We are all hoping and looking forward to a truly fresh start in September when school life can return in full.

Yours sincerely





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