



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Change to the length of the school day

On Monday 28th March, the Department for Education (DfE) [announced](#) an expectation for all schools to operate a minimum working week of 32.5 hours. **This means that we will be required to change the length of the school day from 8.45 – 3.00 p.m. back to 8.45 – 3.15 p.m. at the beginning of the new academic year.**

Structure of the school day

We have spent the last month planning the structure of the school day to incorporate an additional 15-minutes as per DfE guidelines. In our planning, we have taken a student centred view and we have prioritised wellbeing and personal development so that students have good cognitive breaks and the best opportunities for success.

What does this look like for students?

- An **increase in the length of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) lessons in Form Tutor groups** by 5 minutes, every morning
- An **increase in the length of the morning break** by 5 minutes, every morning
- An **increase in the length of the lunchtime** by 5 minutes, every afternoon
- A reduction in the length of lessons **from two-hours to 100-minutes** to reflect feedback from students who have told us that they struggle to sustain concentration during two-hour lessons. This will also mean that all lessons have a consistent length. **Please note there is no reduction to curriculum time**

Outline of the school day from August 2022:

Years 7 and 8							
PSHE 8.45 - 9.15am	Period 1 9.15 – 11.20am			Period 2 11.20 – 1.35pm			Period 3 1.35 – 3.15pm
30 mins	65 mins	Break 10.20 – 10.45am (25 mins)	35 mins	65 mins	Lunch 12.25 – 1.00pm (35 mins)	35 mins	100 mins

Years 9 - 13						
PSHE 8.45 - 9.15am	Period 1 9.15 - 10.55am	Break 10.55 – 11.20am	Period 2 11.20 – 1.00pm	Lunch 1.00 – 1.35pm	Period 3 1.35 – 3.15pm	
30 mins	100 mins	25 mins	100 mins	35 mins	100 mins	

Please note that Sixth Form students may also have additional **'Period 4' lessons** from **3.25 - 4.15pm**

We have consulted with both school bus providers who will be able to alter their service provision to match the new times of the school day. This will not impact students or parents.

We know that it is important for parents to be able to organise and we hope that this letter gives you plenty of time to give consideration to the later finishing time of the school day. If you would like to give your feedback on these proposals then you can do so by completing this [form](#) by Monday 16th May.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Cleary
Principal