



Morton Academy

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RMCG/KRE

29th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for those of you who joined me at our Town Hall Broadcast on Wednesday. If you did not manage to join a recording of the meeting it is available on our website on our main page ([Join conversation \(microsoft.com\)](https://www.mortonacademy.org.uk/join-conversation-microsoft-com)). This letter is to invite you to share your views regarding the changes we plan for the near future and September 2022.

Change to Academy Day:

This year we have organised the academy day into two different sections to create two separate breaks and lunches for students. To do this, we moved our Tutor Time sessions into the middle of the day. Following feedback from staff and students we would like to move Tutor Time to the start of the day to support students being prepared for learning. This means that we would like to have one break and one lunchtime for students from September 2022. The shape of the academy day for all students would look like:

Doors Open	08.30	All students will access the academy from the rear entrance as they do now.
Tutor Time	08.35 - 08.55	This will allow sufficient time for any uniform/equipment checks, whole school reading or assemblies.
Lesson 1	08.55 - 10.35	
Break	10.35 - 11.00	The whole academy will be on break at this time.
Lesson 2	11.00 - 12.40	
Lunch	12.40 - 13.30	The academy will operate two sittings, when one side of the academy is sitting for lunch the other will be in the outside areas or Sports Hall/Theatre if the weather is poor.
Lesson 3	13.30 - 15.10	The academy day ends 10 minutes later to allow for the longer lunch time.

I am therefore writing to all parents to consult you on this proposed change, and I would like to invite you to complete the Microsoft Forms link ([Parents Consultation Feedback](#)) to share your views on this proposed change. I would be grateful for any comments by 13th May 2022.

/cont'd



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Other Updates:

New Bullying Reporting System:

During the presentation I also mentioned two other changes at the academy to support your child. The first is our new online bullying reporting system. Whilst bullying is thankfully rare at our academy, we want to provide students with every opportunity available to report any worries or issues they might have with their peers so we can take effective action. We will still encourage students to talk to staff directly if they have an issue, but this can be difficult for some students so now they will be able to access this form from our website which will be monitored daily and allow staff to act.

SOL Attendance:

I also presented an update to how we are monitoring attendance to the academy. Our new system called SOL attendance has been used by a number of academies and has had a real impact in removing barriers that are stopping children from having good attendance to school. Research clearly shows that the closer a child's attendance is to 100% the higher the chance they have of academic success. To put this more clearly, a child with an attendance rate of 92% is 50% less likely to pass GCSE English and Maths at Grade 5 than a child with 100% attendance. Whilst we are starting to see attendance rates improve there are still too many children whose attendance is not back to where it was before the pandemic. The attendance system will not feel too different to our current practice, but you will see an increase in letters and meetings if your child's attendance is not improving.

Punctuality:

During lockdown, the academy operated a complex school day which relied on senior staff dismissing classes in person to ensure there was no crossing of bubbles. This meant that the academy did not use bells to signify the start and end of lessons. From next week we are going to reintroduce bells to signify the start of lessons/break etc. What this will mean is that students will have to be in lessons by the time the bell signifying the start of lesson sounds. If students are not in lessons by that time, they will be given a late mark on the register. Students need to be aware that any student with a late mark will be subject to a Senior Leader Detention after school for one hour. I do not anticipate that this will cause many detentions as getting to lesson on time is not an unreasonable request, but I wanted you to be aware. I will explain this to students on their return on Tuesday next week.

Relationships and Sex Education:

Following on from the pandemic I would like to invite you to share your views on the academy's approach to educating children regarding relationships and sex. I have attached the current overview of what we teach in each year group. You can also access the policy on our website which we have sent to you previously for comment. If you have any comment on our current methodology or you feel there are aspects of relationships or sex education that we are not covering sufficiently please do share your views using the Microsoft Forms link.

I hope you all have a nice Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McGuire
Executive Principal

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