



Consultation Response on Length of School Day – March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware from previous communication in January we were one of four local Secondary schools who launched a formal stakeholder consultation on the length of the school day.

The Proposal

Specifically we are looking to reduce the current length of the school day from 1650 minutes to 1600 minutes per week. This will involve removing the Registration period of 10 minutes each day. There would be no change to the number of taught periods per week which would remain at 32 – 50 minute periods.

Result of the Consultation

The stakeholder survey included students, teachers and parents / carers and we received 346 responses in total to the survey. In all stakeholders groups, a majority were in support of the removal of registration from the school day.

It has been a useful process and the surveys identified a number of areas of concern. We are confident that we can mitigate these concerns through a variety of means including assemblies and Google classroom. As a result of some positive timetable changes the majority of our students now see their guidance teacher once a week which will give students regular contact with a key adult in school and assist communication.

This initial change is also the start of the process to support Midlothian Secondary schools to collaborate more and take advantage of the new digital platforms introduced via the *Equipped for Learning* initiative, where students can learn through a mixture of remote and face to face contexts to support more flexible learning. This is planned to occur in Session 2024-25 to allow the school day to fit in with the stated Scottish Government policy to reduce class contact time for teachers.

How will the school day change?

The school day will now start with period 1 at 08.40 am. There will be no further change to the school day in session 2023/24. The school day change will be reflected in student timetables when we move to the new Session's timetable at the beginning of June 2023.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Biddick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Biddick

Head Teacher