

People & Partnerships

Midlothian Council
Fairfield House
8 Lothian Road
Dalkeith
EH22 3ZG

Executive Director
Fiona Robertson



12 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Secondary School Day

As you may be aware all six Midlothian Secondary schools are aiming to work in a cooperative manner to allow, amongst other things, an improved level of course choice for all Midlothian students. In particular, Senior Phase students. Currently some schools are able to offer opportunities that others cannot and our aim is to reduce this disparity.

Over the next few years all Midlothian schools will collaborate more, often using the technology we have introduced and approaches we are piloting, to help ensure students in all our schools have the widest curricular opportunities we can offer. This we believe will help ensure better outcomes in terms of qualifications and post-school destinations for all young people across Midlothian.

I have a role with Midlothian Council, equivalent to two days per week until August 2024, to support all Midlothian secondary schools with this work.

A necessary initial step, amongst much associated work, is to establish a common school day for all students. We plan to do this for session 2024/2025 to fit in with stated Scottish Government policy to reduce the class contact time for teachers. In addition, other education reforms, including potential changes to qualifications in the Senior Phase make this a sensible target date.

However, as part of our work we are hoping to make some moves to move towards a common school day for session 2023/2024. This will support work that is happening between all six schools and additional cooperation between groups of schools

All of this means that the Head Teacher of your school will write to you soon around planned changes to the school day in your school that would potentially take effect from June 2023. This is when all schools have agreed to move their timetables forward and coincides with the end of the SQA 2023 Exam Diet and the return of students from Study Leave. Proposed changes have involved discussion between all six schools and are an important part of our overall aim of increased collaboration between our schools.

Thank you for your anticipated support regarding the plans associated with your school.

Yours sincerely

Campbell Hornell
Head Teacher Lasswade HS (Mon/Wed/Fri) and Local Authority Curriculum Role (Tue/Thur)