



Ripon Grammar School

10 July 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

Change to School Day from September 2024

I am writing to inform you of a planned adjustment to our school day **from September 2024** that aims to enhance the overall well-being and academic performance of our students.

The planned change is **to finish teaching on Mondays one hour earlier than at present** so that students will depart school at 2:55 p.m. rather than 3:55 p.m. **The other days of the week will be unaffected and will finish as currently at 3:55 p.m.**

The reason for this adjustment is to create an additional hour of planned and sequenced professional development time for teachers. The benefits we hope are twofold:

1. Increased training time should deliver better student outcomes by allowing more departmental time to plan and sequence the curriculum; allow for the planning of Quality First Teaching to ensure student outcomes for all, including the most vulnerable, remain high; allow time for data analysis to ensure assessment structures deliver accurate and timely information on student progress; allocate more time to ensure strategic priorities are delivered; develop the planning of pastoral time to ensure high quality personal development for students.
2. The additional time will also support staff professional practice by allocating time for collaboration, personal development and alleviate key pressure points. This should in turn support student development further.

Monday has been chosen to minimise the disruption to the after-school co-curricular programme. To minimise the impact on teaching time, Mondays will also see a slightly shorter morning tutor time and a series of 8 x 35-minute lessons, the majority of which will be paired as doubles to reduce travel time.

We will remain over 2 hours above the government's minimal school week. Students should also benefit from being able to complete their home learning earlier on that day.

School transport will continue to run as normal on Mondays, the only difference being that, as in the morning, bus transport will be shared with Outwood Academy at 2:55 p.m. Additional safeguards are planned to ensure a safe departure for all students in the bus park. Boarders will be supervised in house for that additional hour.

This adjustment has been discussed by staff and agreed by governors for the benefit of students and will run for the first time from Monday, 9 September 2024.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Webb
Headmaster

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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