



Our Ref: JWa/BBr

11th June 2015

Consultation on a proposed change to the school day

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to invite you to contribute to the debate we are currently holding with stakeholders about a proposed change in the school day. The staff have already been consulted and are very keen to go ahead whilst our partner Grosvenor Facilities Management (GFM) who provide the lunches are happy to support it. The students have had special assemblies and student council meetings about the changes and are overall very positive. The intention is to change the current lunch arrangements to move from the three sittings over the course of an hour and a half to a single sitting over the course of 50 minutes so that we return to all students on lunch at once. This would mean that we would extend the school day by ten minutes. Therefore, the school day would end at 3pm. Please see the table below for the exact timings:

08.30 – 08.35	Morning registration
08.35 - 09.35	Period 1
09.35 – 10.35	Period 2
10.35 – 10.50	Morning break
10.50 – 11.50	Period 3
11.50 – 12.10	Tutorial/Assembly
12.10 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.00	Period 4
14.00 – 15.00	Period 5

We feel that this move will have major benefits for the students including better access to extra-curricular activities, more time to socialise with their friends and more opportunity to seek help with their studies from teachers. We have been assured by GFM that they would still be able to feed the same number of students over the course of the new lunchtime.

We will hold a consultation meeting about this proposed change. The meeting is intended to give you an opportunity to speak to us and to raise any issues that you may have (examples overleaf). The meeting will take place at the following time to allow as many of you to attend as possible:

- Thursday 18th June – 6 pm

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to comment either way on the proposal then please feel free to write to us with to us with your comments at schoolday@oulderhill-school.com.

I look forward to welcoming you on Thursday 18th June or to reading your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Watson
Headteacher

Main benefits versus potential problems of a single sitting lunch

Benefits	Potential problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students would have more places to go during lunchtime – the play areas and the Street would be opened up for use. This would also allow more students to “blow off steam” by playing football etc. • Extra-curricular clubs would be greatly improved – more students would be able to get involved in this important part of school life. • The school day would feel less “rushed”. • Having PM tutorial before lunch would allow us to use it as a reward. Form of the week could have their lunch early and sit and eat with their tutor. • This would allow staff to be free at the same time as students to run extras eg revision, catch-up and to deal with low level behaviour earlier by having lunchtime detentions. This should stop incidents escalating and lessen the need for after school interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer queues – we will need to manage the queue system carefully so that they do not get too long. This will be done by rotating who queues at what times each day. • GFM would need to ensure that they could feed the students in the allotted time. This they have assured us that they can do. • Site supervision – we would need to ensure that supervision of students at lunchtime is rigorous as more students will be on lunch and will be on for longer. We have plans to significantly extend the number of staff on lunch supervision.