



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

NDB/JDN

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to make you aware as early as possible of an intended change to the length of our school day. Having evaluated our curriculum model earlier this year, we have also looked at the distribution of time in order to ensure the most efficient use of our staff and the best work pattern for our students. As a result, we have concluded that:

- Our current start time works well, and there is no need to change this. We recognize that many of our students come from far afield, and sufficient time is required to get them to school in a morning.
- Our current finish time is not so effective, and we have decided to shorten the school day to finish at 3.15pm as opposed to 3.35pm.

There are a few key reasons for this:

1. Practically speaking, this finish time enables us to access more opportunities - for example, 3.35pm means that playing sporting fixtures disrupts learning for students as the vast majority of other Kirklees schools finish earlier than we do.
2. It will allow us to maximise the use of our facilities.
3. It will give our staff more time to spend on ensuring we maintain the highest standard of education for our students.
4. Students will have more time to get from the school into Heckmondwike to catch their buses at the hub.
5. Students and staff alike will end their formal working day slightly earlier which we hope will have an impact in the longer term on their health and wellbeing.

We are aware that this earlier finish time may cause difficulties for some parents; but even finishing at 3.15pm will mean we still close later than all but two Kirklees schools. Of course, the usual options will still be available: the library will remain open after school for students to access, and sixth formers will still have access to the Independent Learning Area (ILA) and their common room.

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Headteacher: Mr N D Bulley

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We have also contacted Arriva regarding the 629 bus and they have agreed to bring its departure time ten minutes earlier to make transport easier for students. However, if parents are aware of any difficulties or inconveniences that we have not yet considered, then please let us know and we will look into them. We will do our best to mitigate any problems so as to ensure that our new arrangements work well for all.

As a consequence of this, and of our new sixth form centre being completed by October half term, we are also considering some changes to break and lunchtime. However, these are not fully confirmed as yet and will not impact on parental organisation in terms of drop-off and pick-up times.

We believe this slight change to our day will have a significant impact on the wellbeing of our staff and students with no detriment to the quality of education we provide; and we hope you also see the probable benefits of this action.

To reiterate, please do get in touch with us should these new times create problems that we have not foreseen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Bulley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Bulley

Headteacher