



Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

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Headteacher:
Mr M Cooper MEd

Dear Parents/Carers

Change to the school day September 2024

I am writing to you today to share a change we are having to make to our school day commencing Wednesday 4 September 2024.

In March 2022 the Schools White Paper, written by The Department for Education, announced that there is a minimum expectation for all schools to deliver 32.5 hours of school time to all students. Whilst we have for many years offered highly successful additional provision for students, be that in the form of booster/revision sessions in academic studies, or extra-curricular opportunities across a broad range of interests, these do not satisfy The Department of Education's expectation of the global offer to all students every day, every week.

Whilst we made a slight amendment to the start of the school day in 2023, starting at 8.40am rather than 8.45am, we remain 50 minutes short across the week when compared to the stated minimum expectations. I am afraid we do not subscribe to the quantity is more important than quality approach, however, by September 2024 we are expected to be compliant in this matter.

To add an additional 10 minutes to every day or indeed 50 minutes to one day would cause significant disruption to students, families and indeed the school curriculum. It is for this reason that as of September 2024, we will be adding 10 minutes to the lunch period every day, which will have the subsequent impact of the school day finishing at 3.10pm rather than 3.00pm as we currently do. Adding this short period to the lunchtime for students will, whilst assisting with dining arrangements, provide a longer period in which we can support them further with their learning, open up more opportunities for interests and events, and potentially free up some evening time to broaden the offer of clubs and experiences for more students.

Whilst we are aware of how this may require some changes to daily working practices, we are compelled to make the change so as not to bring any additional challenge to our door. We remain totally committed to our belief that it is the quality of what we provide that makes the difference not the additional 10 minutes required by the Department for Education.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 11 July at our Target Setting Day. Further information about this day will be shared after half term.

Kind regards

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

School Day from September 2024

The school day starts at 8.35am every morning when the siren is sounded. Students can gain access to the school site from 7.30am. From this time onwards, the Library is available for homework and 'Magic Breakfast' is available in the dining hall.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Registration | 8.40am | - | 9.00am |
| Period 1 | 9.00am | - | 9.50am |
| Period 2 | 9.50am | - | 10.40am |
| <i>Break</i> | <i>10.40am</i> | - | <i>11.00am</i> |
| Period 3 | 11.00am | - | 11.50pm |
| Period 4 | 11.50am | - | 12.40pm |
| <i>Lunch</i> | <i>12.40pm</i> | - | <i>1.30pm</i> |
| Period 5 | 1.30pm | - | 2.20pm |
| Period 6 | 2.20pm | - | 3.10pm |

School ends at 3.10pm, after which there is the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.