

20th July 2023

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the academic year I wanted to share some updates with parents / carers before we finish for the school holidays.

The school day consultation closed last Friday and the results indicated a positive response to the changes of the organisation and timings of the school day. In response, we have adapted the times to take into account a slightly longer lunch time, which was requested by pupils.

To confirm the school day timings from September 2023 will be:

Breakfast	8.00am (free to all pupils toast or porridge)
Registration	8.40am - 8.45am
Period 1	8.45am - 9.45am
Period 2	9.45am - 10.45am
Break	10.45am - 11.05am
Period 3	11.05am - 12.05pm
Period 4	12.05pm - 1.05pm
Lunch	1.05pm - 1.40pm (extension of 5 minutes)
Period 5	1.40pm - 2.40pm
Period 6	2.40pm - 3.00pm

This term has brought about many changes for staff, students and families alike. I do appreciate that in making adaptations, this can be unsettling, but rest assured decisions that are being taken are with the absolute focus of improving Welling School both academically and pastorally.

In planning for September 2023, the school will respond to feedback from both staff and pupils in the following ways:

- A one week timetable has been created, which is based on routine and simpler for pupils to remember and navigate
- Adding an additional 5 minutes onto lunchtime
- Using period 6 to deliver assemblies, reading and a planned programme of PSHE
- Food Technology, a very popular subject, has been timetabled for all Key stage 3 pupils, once a week

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Building Successful Futures

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- Additional year group trips and visits have been calendared to offer pupils greater and more enhanced opportunities outside of the classroom
- A planned programme of personal development opportunities adapted for each year group
- Work Experience has been planned to take place in Year 10 every year
- In September, Year 13 will have a week of work experience to provide them with the opportunity which was missed due to Covid restrictions

More personalised changes to the Key stage 3 curriculum pathways will be communicated by Ms Gooch, Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3.

Feedback from parents also indicated that the website needed to be improved. The process started last week and I hope that when it is completed, by mid September, it will be a much more efficient and user-friendly website that parents can access to check for updates and key information about the school.

Over the summer, planned repairs and improvements will take place. The following major projects will also be completed:

- Brand new toilet blocks for Years 8- 11
- A new 6th form centre to include study areas and a cafe. This will also include 6th form only toilets
- New desks and chairs in all Maths classrooms
- Planned programme of redecoration of the school's corridors

At the time of writing, our Sports Days have not yet taken place. Being an ex PE teacher, I am acutely aware of the value of PE and Sport to young people and how it plays a substantial role in their development as a person, but also the positive impact it can have academically. I am sure the days will be a great success with participation and enjoyment at its heart. Additionally, the sporting plans for next academic year are exciting with clubs, teams and competitions planned by Mr Williams and his team. This will increase participation as well as reaching excellence in a number of sports and activities.

Since taking up the post of Headteacher, after Easter, there have been many highlights but few have topped the school's performance of Matilda. It was all of the school's values demonstrated in two evenings of exceptional live theatre. The school's community supporting each other during rehearsal and performance stages really demonstrated **kindness**. The **ambition** to strive for excellence both on the stage and also backstage with the support of staff and pupils who were highly skilled in their roles and contributed significantly to the overall event. The **active** nature of the performances and events which accelerate children's skills and experiences.. Mr Knight, in his role leading Personal Development across the school, has been planning opportunities and experiences for next academic year which will seek to replicate the success of the production and provide the foundation for pupils to be successful at Welling.

At this point, I must also mention the Art exhibition which demonstrated excellence in Visual Arts and was also a wonderful event celebrating the very best of Welling. It was very well supported by parents and showed the school at its best.

I am very much looking forward to next academic year's exhibitions, trips, showcases and productions which are already being planned by the Visual and Performing Arts Teams. Ms Reed, as Director of the Arts, will be leading both areas building and improving on this year's standards and experiences both within the curriculum and extracurricular provision.

Naturally, at the end of an academic year some staff are leaving. They leave with our sincere thanks for their work at Welling and we wish them the best for the future.

The School will be closing at the end of this week and will not be open to any students. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 pupils on Monday 4th September for their respective induction days. Year

8 – 11 and Year 13 will start on Tuesday 5th September at the normal start time. Whilst the school will be closed over the summer break we will be open around results days in August and a letter confirming the arrangements for current Year 11 and Year 13 students will be sent out. If you have any questions regarding this letter or would like to contact the school over the summer break please contact the school on office@wellingschool-tkat.org. This email address will be monitored.

In preparation for a successful start, please refer to the school uniform and equipment expectations. In particular, all pupils require a school bag for school books and equipment necessary for lessons. Ms Newbrook will also send out a reminder to all pupils on Friday 1st September via google classroom and the school's twitter account regarding uniform expectations.

I would like to wish all families a safe and restful summer break. The holidays are an opportunity to reset and recover energy levels ready for the next school year. It is also a chance to spend time with family and friends and hopefully enjoy the warmer weather.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Griffen', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Brian Griffen
Headteacher