



23 January 2020

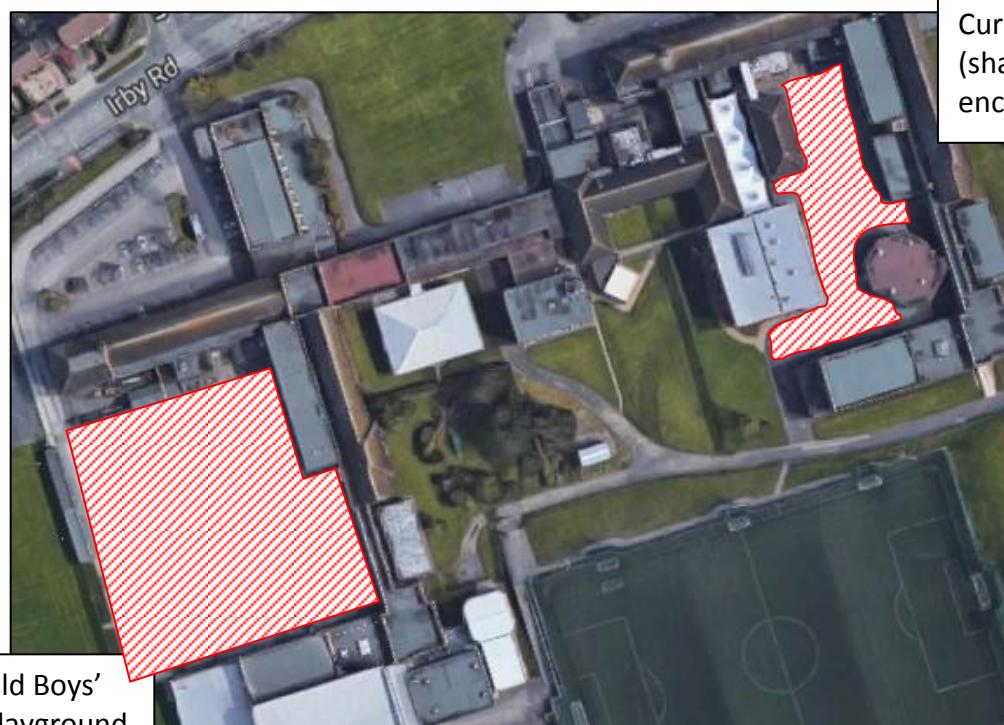
Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to the structure of the day from September 2020

As I am sure you are aware the School has seen rapid growth in student numbers in Key Stages 3 and 4 (Years 7 to 11), with there being approximately 550 students in Key 3 and 4 two years ago to a projection of 900 students in two years' time. When the Boys' and Girls' schools merged, we took the decision to move on to what had been the Girls' site as this had additional facilities including specialist science accommodation, English/ICT block, library and the drama studio. However, this additional accommodation has come at the expense of communal break time space for students as it was built on what had previously been playground space.

For a school that had less than 600 students in Years 7 to 11 this was not a problem; however, as the student population has grown rapidly the lack of space, particularly at lunchtime, is becoming more apparent and never more so than when the weather means that the fields are out of bounds. We cannot fit everyone into the dining spaces at lunch and students are at times standing outside in the rain.

Essentially the issue is simple – the playground is 40% of the size of the Boys' old playground and isn't big enough for the current student population and we do not have another communal space we can consistently free up for students:



Current playground
(shaded) and
encroaching buildings

Old Boys'
playground

As a school and community we pride ourselves on how our students choose to behave. It isn't always perfect, but generally students conduct themselves brilliantly, but that is increasingly difficult when there is no room for them to move. So before the school fills completely I am proposing to change the pattern of the day and split lunch so that the students have more space available during break times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday					
Proposed Key Stage 3		Proposed Key Stage 4		Current pattern	
AM Reg	8.40 – 8.50	AM Reg	8.40 – 8.50	AM Reg	8.40 – 9.00
1	8.50 – 9.50	1	8.50 – 9.50	1	9.00 – 10.00
2	9.50 – 10.50	2	9.50 – 10.50	2	10.00 – 11.00
Break	10.50 – 11.10	Break	10.50 – 11.10	Break	11.00 – 11.20
3	11.10 – 12.10	3	11.10 – 12.10	3	11.20 – 12.20
4	12.10 – 1.10	4	12.10 – 1.10	4	12.20 – 1.20
Lunch 35mins	1.10 – 1.45	Pastoral 30 mins	1.10 – 1.40	Lunch	1.20 – 2.05
Pastoral 30 mins	1.45 – 2.15	Lunch 35mins	1.40 – 2.15	5	2.05 – 3.05
5	2.15 – 3.15	5	2.15 – 3.15	PM Reg	3.05 – 3.15

Wednesday					
Proposed Key Stage 3		Proposed Key Stage 4		Current pattern	
AM Reg	8.40 – 8.50	AM Reg	8.40 – 8.50	AM Reg	8.40 – 9.00
1	8.50 – 9.40	1	8.50 – 9.40	1	9.00 – 9.50
2	9.40 – 10.30	2	9.40 – 10.30	2	9.50 – 10.40
Break	10.30 – 10.50	Break	10.30 – 10.50	Break	10.40 – 11.00
3	10.50 – 11.40	3	10.50 – 11.40	3	11.00 – 11.50
4	11.40 – 12.30	4	11.40 – 12.30	4	11.50 – 12.40
Lunch 35 mins	12.30 – 1.05	Pastoral 25 mins	12.30 – 12.55	Lunch	12.40 – 1.20
Pastoral 25 mins	1.05 – 1.30	Lunch 35 mins	12.55 – 1.30	5	1.20 – 2.10
5	1.30 – 2.20	5	1.30 – 2.20	PM Reg	2.10 – 2.20

We are not proposing to move the start or finish of the day, there will be no impact on travel arrangements and it remains the case that students can stay later on a Wednesday if required.

As we are not changing the start or finish times for the school day there is no statutory process for consultation. However, I am keen to hear from both you and the students and I will hold a series of assemblies to explain the proposed change to the students, and ask for feedback from them. Sometimes the smallest of details can make a real difference to how things operate. Equally we have an email setup for you to feedback consultation@psf.wirral.sch.uk and I will be available for a consultation meeting in the school hall on Monday 16 March 2020 at 5.00pm and I can answer questions and take feedback then as well.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher