



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL

Raising Achievement by Adjustments to the School Day: FAQs

How does this compare to other schools?

The length of our Activity Time/lunchtime would still be one of the longest in the area, reflecting the value and emphasis we will continue to place on our rich extra-curricular provision which will be maintained. Please see table below.

Other schools' timings:

Start	Finish	Break	Lunchtime
8.40am	3.10pm	11.00-11.25am	1.25-2.00pm
8.55am	3.30pm	11.25-11.45am	12.55-1.55pm
8.35am	Tues-Fri: 3.25pm Mon: 2.25pm	11.15-11.35am	1.40-2.25pm
8.45am	3.10pm	10.50-11.10am	1.10-1.55pm
8.35am	3.00pm	10.55-11.15am	1.15-2.00pm
8.40am	3.05pm	10.40-11.00am	12.40-1.20pm
8.50am	3.25pm	11.00-11.20am	1.20-2.05
8.50am	3.15pm	11.05-11.25am	1.25-2.05pm
8.30am	3.05pm	10.40-11.00am	1.00-1.40pm
8.40am	Mon-Thur: 2.55pm Fri: 2.20pm	11.00-11.15am	½ hr snack breaks (rota) Mon-Thur: 12.15/12.45/1.15 Fri: 11.40/12.10/1.40 Fri: ½ hr tutor session and only 4 lessons

What happens if I cannot pick my child up earlier from school?

Supervised study support provision is available in the library after school if travel arrangements require children to stay beyond 3.20pm. In addition there are enrichment/extra-curricular activities that students can participate in.

Will this change mean it is too rushed for students to participate in lunchtime clubs and eat lunch?

This has been carefully considered. Currently, Activity Time is actually 50 minutes in length twice a week (the days vary for year groups). This does not prevent activities from taking place and students find time to eat lunch. The canteen currently serves only a few students after 1pm. If the proposal goes ahead, we will be reviewing how students attending activities may be able to access the dinner queue first if they purchase food.

How will the change provide more enrichment and targeted sessions?

Over the last few years the extra-curricular activities and support sessions available at Activity Time have grown and are recognised as a strength of the school which we are totally committed to maintaining. However, there is now little further capacity for growth at this time of the day. Therefore, the proposal aims to make greater use of the end of the day for enrichment and more targeted session to reach more students across all key stages.

Staff give their time generously to offer many extra-curricular activities but by making these changes we release 20 minutes on average of directed time for each member of staff that can be rechanneled into providing targeted sessions or enrichment sessions after timetabled teaching ends. It will not be the case that this will be delivered in the 10 minutes at the end of each day but the time is likely to be contributed as appropriate to deliver 20 minute sessions once a week after school or potentially 40 minutes every other week. Arrangements will vary between faculties and key stages according to need, to deliver the best outcomes. In this way, many students will benefit.

Why does the proposal give an earlier finish on Friday?

The removal of one assembly a week means that on one day the released time from the changes is twenty minutes greater. By removing the assembly on the Friday there are additional gains to be realised from an earlier start to Friday afternoon lessons for CCF activities offsite and for Voluntary Service students working in primary schools. Therefore, it is most appropriate for the earlier finish to be on a day where additional benefits can be achieved.

Does an hour's Activity Time have a detrimental impact on learning (particularly if extra-curricular activities are encouraged)?

Research shows that when students are engaged in enrichment activities, whether at Activity Time or after school, it has a positive impact on learning. This is something that we strongly promote at St Bart's. The reason for the proposal though is that we have largely reached capacity at what we can offer at lunchtime, and wish to engage more students in activities and targeted learning sessions which can now only be done after the formal timetable ends. By engaging more students in this way, and providing more opportunities for support and extension, students' achievement should be raised. Secondly, a large proportion of our students, approximately 70%, are not engaged in an activity at lunchtime on most days. The majority of these students tell us that Activity Time is too long. Nationally, many schools have reduced the length of this period of time over the years and for students not engaged in activities at this time, schools have said that it brings benefits in terms of engagement in learning in the afternoon.

How will you encourage students to take part in additional activities?

In September we will be promoting the range of activities more widely through The Societies Fair, new publicity material, assemblies and through Houses and faculties. Intervention will also be spread over more periods within the week, so clashes will be less and students can participate in all that they want to. We will be making greater use of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards to encourage, record and reward student participation. Specific support, catch up and extension lesson attendance will be encouraged in direct liaison with parents. As more students become involved in activities after formal teaching has ended, the aim is that students see this provision as part of an extended day.

Why not simply make the school day longer if you wish to extend activities?

This is unfortunately not an option, as staff contracts and use of their directed time is already fully utilised. Therefore, we have to release additional time to provide additional activities.

Is this a fait accompli, or what is the next phase of the consultation?

All the feedback we have received tonight and from parents who could not attend the meeting will be reviewed and fed back to Governors on Thursday 19 May when a decision will be made as to whether the proposal is agreed or not for implementation in September 2016, or to consult further. Parents will be informed of the outcome by half term.