

## Borden Grammar School - Consultation: Structure of the School Day

### Outcome of the consultation that ran from 18.3.19 - 29.4.19:

“The Headteacher has considered the responses (captured below) and his proposal to Borden Grammar School’s Board of Trustees (Governing Body) to fully implement the changes from the start of Term 1 in September 2019 was unanimously approved on Friday 17 May 2019.”

**Reminder:** The three key elements that Borden sought views upon:

- 1) **The length of lessons.** At present we have four lessons in the school day, these lessons vary in length from 70-80 minutes. Our intention is to make all lessons 75 minutes each which will not only reduce variation between subjects but establish consistency between the length of lessons before/after the school lunchbreak. This change is overwhelmingly supported by the teaching staff.
- 2) **The length of the lunchbreak.** At present our lunchbreak is 1 hour. Our intention is to have a lunchbreak that is 45 minutes long. A lunchbreak that is 15 minutes shorter will give less opportunity for issues to arise and will help students to ensure they are focused for their afternoon learning. In a recent survey of teaching staff a 40-45 minute lunchbreak was significantly more popular than either 30 or 60 minutes. Notably, the collective view of our pastoral staff was that a reduced lunchbreak would be beneficial. Additionally, our PE staff would welcome a shorter lunchbreak as this will facilitate more light for after school fixtures on ‘shorter’ days as well as the ability to leave for away fixtures earlier. The canteen is typically ‘clear’ within 35 minutes of the start of lunch of students eating hot food.
- 3) **The end of the school day.** At present the school day finishes at 3:30pm. Our intention is to finish at 3:15pm. Homework club will still operate in the Library for an hour after school and provides a resource that is used by boys from every key stage. In addition revision classes and sports practices which typically last for up to an hour will be able to finish in time for students to catch the ‘late buses’ at 4:45pm. Be assured that we will consult with the bus companies about the proposed change.

From September 2019 our school day at Borden would look like this:

	Time
Morning Registration	8:45am
Assembly or form time	8:50am
Period 1	9:05am
Period 2	10:20am
Breaktime	11:35am
Period 3	11:55am
Lunchbreak	1:10pm
Afternoon Registration	1:55pm
Period 4	2:00pm
School finishes	3:15pm

## Consultation: Structure of the School Day - Summary of feedback

**Consultation Start Date:** Monday 18 March 2019

**Consultation Finish Date:** Monday 29 April 2019 (12pm)

(FYI: the school received 14 written responses in the consultation period)

### 1) The length of lessons:

The 4 periods in the day should vary in length between 70-80 minutes	3
The 4 periods should each be 75 minutes in length	11
<p>Additional comments:            "Could break time be moved between period 1 &amp; period 2 as it is very late?"</p> <p>School response: we have liaised with the canteen and considering the time it takes to prepare food the timing is best left between periods 2-3. The school also prefers a considerable block of time for learning to occur at the start of the day.</p>	

### 2) The length of the lunchbreak:

I do not have any significant concerns about the lunchbreak being 45 minutes long	11
I have some reservations about the lunchbreak being 45 minutes long	2
I strongly object to the lunchbreak being 45 minutes long	1
<p>Additional comments:            "The lunchbreak would not be long enough for anything but eating which would impact on those children that like to do homework or have clubs at lunchtime."            "Time for lunch clubs will be reduced i.e. band. Also time to work in the ICT suite reduced and some work can only be done at school."            "I'm not sure this will be long enough to allow time to eat and also some 'play' time which I think is very important. Also is there an opportunity to bring lunch forward to the 11:55 slot?"</p> <p>School response: our observation of students' eating patterns is that most eat during morning break and the canteen is clear within 35 minutes of the lunch break. Feedback from the School Council (29.3.19) supported the change and recognised how the boredom factor of an hour's lunch break can lead to problems during more 'unsupervised time.' Most staff are flexible about the length of clubs that are run and when they occur. A lunchbreak of 45 minutes still allows time for a variety of activities to occur. Many academic support sessions occur after school as well as sports clubs.</p> <p>"Taking 15 minutes from lunch and finishing school 15 minutes early would only be beneficial if the bus times alter as well, would this happen."</p> <p>School response: see below (in q3)</p>	

### 3) The end of the school day:

I do not have any significant concerns about the school day finishing at 3:15pm	12
I have some reservations about the school day finishing at 3:15pm	2
I strongly object to the school day finishing at 3:15pm	0

Additional comments:  
“That will leave 15 minutes until the buses arrive, I would rather my son be learning at this time than hanging around outside school.”  
“It would mean an upheaval to the working day for those people that work and finish for a 3:30pm pick up.”

School response:  
The school will continue to run ‘Homework club’ for an hour after the end of the school day, the library is staffed and the provision attended by students from Y7-13 every day. No reduction in teaching time occurs, students still receive five hours of teaching plus assembly/tutor time daily.

The Headteacher met with the major provider of bus services (Travelmaster) for our students who welcomed our proposal. The bus company informed the school that they have plans to expand provision of their bus routes in the next academic year to provide additional buses that could not only meet Borden’s current needs but increase the number of services that run between 3:15-5pm. Travelmaster confirmed that 3-4 buses would pick up straight from school and then several waves of buses arrive between 3:45-5pm that would benefit students staying later for clubs, activities or detentions. That the first wave of buses would depart by 3:25pm could help local congestion.

The Headteacher has considered the responses and his proposal to Borden Grammar School’s Board of Trustees (Governing Body) to fully implement the changes from the start of Term 1 in September 2019 was unanimously approved on Friday 17 May 2019.

Consequently, from September 2019 our school day at Borden will look like this:

	Time
Morning Registration	8:45am
Assembly or form time	8:50am
Period 1	9:05am
Period 2	10:20am
Breaktime	11:35am
Period 3	11:55am
Lunchbreak	1:10pm
Afternoon Registration	1:55pm
Period 4	2:00pm
School finishes	3:15pm