

22 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of what has been an exceptional year, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. Our students have continued to work hard despite the challenges they have faced owing to the pandemic. I am proud of them all and a flavour of some of their achievements is showcased in this term's Vale Views, a copy of which is also attached.

You will also have received information regarding onsite LFD testing prior to students returning in September. To minimise disruption to the start of term, we have scheduled most of the testing for Thursday 02 and Friday 03 September. Details of dates and times for year groups have already been sent out and a copy of the schedule is on the academy website. [Letters - The Vale Academy](#)

As you will be aware, we have undertaken a consultation regarding the proposed new timings to the academy day. The consultation closed earlier today, and we received 21 responses. Unfortunately, we are unable to reply individually to responses received, however most responses were in favour of the proposal. We had no concerns raised about the proposed change to the end of the day being moved to 3.10pm. Some parents did raise a concern that the Y10 and Y11 lunch time is late. Following these concerns, we have revised the timings to bring the Y10 and Y11 lunch earlier and to increase the length of lunch. The Y11 lunch is now earlier than it has been this academic year. We will also have a slight overlap in the lunches that we will be able to manage internally. We also offer a range of options in the canteen at breaktime for students and provide toast for students who are in receipt of a free school meal.

More significant changes to the timing of lunch are not possible due to the constraints of having to split lunch in a chosen period to allow the timetable to operate effectively.

As an academy we strive to maximise students' performance and we believe that the benefits of learning before lunch are significant, which is why we have settled on one lesson after the period 4 / split lunch session. We have also considered feedback from our students who have said that they prefer the split lunches rather than all students having lunch at the same time. We also believe that splitting lunches will enable us to effectively move to a Covid contingency plan should the need arise next academic year.

Therefore, the new school timings from September 6th are as follows:

<b>Period 1</b>
8.45am - 9.45am
<b>Period 2</b>
9.45am - 10.45am
<b>Break / Intervention - EPC / Assembly</b>
10.45am - 11.30am

<b>Period 3</b>	
11.30am - 12.30pm	
<b>Lunch / Period 4</b>	
12.30pm - 2.05pm	
<b>Period 5</b>	
2.05pm - 3.10pm	
Break - Year 7 & 8	10.45am 11.00am
Break – Year 9, 10 & 11	11.15am – 11.30
Lunch - Year 7	12.30pm - 1.05pm
Lunch - Year 8 and 9	1.00pm - 1.35pm
Lunch - Year 10 and 11	1.30pm -2.05pm
Start time	8.45am
Finish time	3.10pm

**Examination results days are as follows:**

**Tuesday 10 August                      A Level**

**Thursday 12 August                      GCSE**

**Further details have been sent separately to parents/carers of students in Years 11 and 13.**

At the end of term, we say goodbye to two long serving members of staff. Mr Andy Davey has given an incredible 28 years' service to The Vale as a biology teacher and sixth form tutor. He has inspired literally thousands of students during this time and will be missed by everyone. Mrs Tracy McCullagh has worked as a Teaching Assistant at The Vale for 18 years and has provided excellent support for many students with additional needs. We thank them for their considerable contribution to The Vale and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Finally, a reminder that the academy reopens in September on **Monday 06 September at 8.45.**

In the meantime, I wish you and your families a wonderful, and above all safe, summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs N Williams**  
**Associate Executive Principal**