

# The Harefield Academy

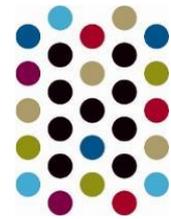
*Achievement through Active Learning*

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Principal: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



Gold Partner  
2014/15

April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to advise you of changes we are making to the school day from September 2016. You will see below a rationale for these changes as well as the timings that will take effect from the beginning of the autumn term.

## Rationale:

- Substantial national changes to GCSEs have placed far greater demands upon the time required to deliver new content. We are therefore moving to six 50 minute lessons rather than five 60 minute lessons in order that we can be more flexible about how much time we allocate to each subject.
- We have identified a need to improve punctuality as currently too much learning time is lost or disrupted due to late arrivals during Period 1. We are therefore shifting the start time of the day from 8.15am to 8.45am. We will also be starting the day with tutor time enabling form tutors to set the tone for the day and to monitor punctuality and attendance effectively. Students are more likely to be engaged and successful in their learning if they have had an adequate amount of sleep and a well-structured start to the day. The later start should also support students in finding time to eat a healthy breakfast, which in turn can improve alertness, mood and behaviour.
- In order to improve social cohesion and to facilitate a proper break in the middle of the day, we will be operating a single 50 minute lunch break during which time all students will be able to eat packed lunches or can purchase either a hot meal or cold food from the Café and additional outlets. Arrangements will be made to supervise indoor and outdoor areas in order that students have time to get some fresh air and have some exercise as well as eating their food. There will also be more opportunities for clubs, interventions, homework catch-up and activities at lunchtimes given the time available.

As a result of the later start, the day will end at 3.10pm. Mr. Smith is currently liaising with the bus companies and will be in touch with you all again towards the end of the term once arrangements and bus times have been confirmed.

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Times of the school day to take effect from September 2016:

	Start	End
Tutor time	08.45	09.05
Period 1	09.05	09.55
Period 2	09.55	10.45
Break	10.45	11.00
Period 3	11.00	11.50
Period 4	11.50	12.40
Lunch	12.40	13.30
Period 5	13.30	14.20
Period 6	14.20	15.10

I understand that this change may involve modifying your current before and after school arrangements and apologise for any inconvenience if this is the case. I am sure you will understand our desire to facilitate the most appropriate learning conditions for students in order that they can work in a positive, aspirational environment that maximises productivity and engagement.

I am fully committed to raising standards in The Academy and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your son/daughter in achieving their best.

Yours sincerely,

**Tash Moriarty**  
Principal