



Dear Stakeholder  
**Consultation: Changes to the School Day**

February 2018

We are writing to seek your views on making changes to the school day at Brannel School. These changes are being proposed as part of a review of how we can best meet the needs of our students.

## Lunchtime

Since the introduction of the Brannel Challenge, we have seen a decline in the numbers of students attending lunchtime clubs and extra-curricular opportunities because many of these are now available on a Wednesday afternoon. The addition of the 'late bus' has also allowed for a much higher number of students to stay behind after school and participate in clubs, sports and intervention. These changes to the way students make use of the opportunities available at school have resulted in a review of how students use their lunchtime. We believe that this time is unnecessarily long and that it would be more valuable to shorten the length of lunch and finish the school day earlier.

We are therefore proposing to shorten the lunch break by 10 minutes and, as a result, shorten the school day by 10 minutes.

## Opportunities for Staff Development

In addition to considering the length of lunchtime, we have been reflecting on best practice in schools where the development of the quality of teaching and learning has seen significant improvements in the success of students. We have always believed that teacher development and learning is critical to enhancing student learning and achievement. We have sought ways to enable this by increasing time for departments to work together and by working with other schools, including as part of being a member of a Multi-Academy Trust.

Time is the essential element needed for teachers to be able to work on their practice and develop. In some of the best education systems in the world, teachers spend up to half their time being able to plan and work collaboratively with other colleagues. The UK system does not allow for this, but we have looked at schools where this has been achieved through more innovative methods.

We are proposing to shorten the school day on Fridays so that students are able to go home, and staff have additional time to work together.

## Proposed New School Day

	Current	Proposed	
		Mo, Tu, We, Th	Friday
Registration	08:55	08:55	08:55
Period 1	09:15	09:15	<b>09:05</b>
Break	10:30	10:30	<b>10:10</b>
Period 2	10:50	10:50	<b>10:30</b>
Period 3	12:10	12:10	<b>11:40</b>
Lunch	13:25	13:25	<b>12:45</b>
Period 4	14:10	<b>14:00</b>	<b>13:15</b>
End of Day	15:25	<b>15:15</b>	<b>14:20</b>
Late bus (when available)	17:00	17:00	None, staff development session and meetings

**This means that school will finish at 3:15pm on each day except for 2:20pm on a Friday.**

This is an important change to the school which we feel will have a significant impact on the progress that students make at school.

Before we make this decision, which if agreed would be effective from September 2018, we want to seek the views of all the school community including staff, students, parents/carers and those who provide transport services for the school. Your views about these changes are important and we encourage you to share them with us.

If you would like to comment on these proposed changes please contact Mrs Christine Thomas, PA to the Headteacher, either in writing or by email ([cthomas@brannel.com](mailto:cthomas@brannel.com)). If you wish to speak to a member of staff about these proposals, please speak to Mrs Thomas who will arrange for an appointment. Feedback should be received by the school no later than the end of the day on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

We have included some frequently asked questions about these changes along with the responses from the school. Additional questions which are useful to all stakeholders will be added to this list on the school website.

Thank you very much for your support; we look forward to hearing your feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Edmonds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Mr Andy Edmonds  
Headteacher

## School Day Consultation – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will students be able to eat lunch in a shorter lunchtime?**

Our lunchtime food service is almost always finished within 15 minutes of the beginning of lunch. This means that in the new 35 minute lunch, students will easily be able to eat their lunch and take the time to rest and prepare for the final lesson of the day. Friday 'chip day' can sometimes take a little longer to serve students and we will watch this carefully. We recently introduced an additional chip server to assist in the length of time students have to wait on Friday and this is working much better.

### **What about the clubs that take place during lunch, will these be dropped?**

We hope that all the clubs and activities which currently take place during a lunchtime will be able to continue but may have to run a little shorter. We will be working with those who organise, lunchtime clubs to help them and students manage the changes. In addition, we continue to encourage staff to offer lunchtime activities for students.

### **Will the bus and taxi times change to accommodate the changes to the school day?**

Cornwall Council is being consulted on these changes and they will provide their feedback on how they will accommodate the new end to the school day. It is our expectation that the contracts with transport providers will be altered so that all students have left the site within 10 minutes of the end of the school day.

### **Why have you chosen a Friday for the teacher development session?**

We have considered several options for which day to have the teacher development session. Ultimately, we have chosen Friday because we believe that it has the least negative impact on students since we offer a significant amount of after school activities and interventions on all other days of the week. We also believe that without the need to plan for the following day, staff will be more open and ready for the development session.

### **Does this mean that teachers will be 'bunking off' on a Friday afternoon?**

Absolutely not! The time from when the students leave until the end of the of the normal school day is still working time for all members of school staff. A carefully planned programme of training and collaboration will be planned to make the best use of this precious time. Support staff will be included in this to ensure that their contribution is valued, and their development considered.

### **Will there be the opportunity for students to remain in school on a Friday afternoon if no-one is able to meet them at home?**

Yes, a supervised room will be available for students who wish to remain until 3:15pm. However, there will be no other buses or transport after those which will take the students home at 2:20pm. Students who remain will be expected to be in the designated room. Those who loiter in the corridors will be asked to go home.

### **Will students be asked about these changes?**

Yes, the School Council has already consulted with House and Tutor Reps about the shortening of lunch and the school day. They have agreed that this is the right way forward for the school. This consultation asks all members of the school community, including students, for their views on the complete proposals.