



24th May 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

I wanted to share a message with parents & carers, to outline a change to our approach to student supervision and locations at break and lunchtimes after the May half term, to clarify our reasons for doing this and our plans for ongoing review and refinement of what we are doing.

From the return of students to school on Monday 3rd June 2024, students will be zoned in two different areas at break and lunch. For the last half term, students in Year 7 and 8 will be allocated the A3 playground, the all-weather courts and the area around Design Technology up to the college centre. Students in this area will be allowed access to the D-block toilets for lunch and break. They can also access the main hall canteen. These zoned areas will convert to a Key Stage 3 only space from September.

Year 7 will also be allocated the A3 common room as a transition space and can also purchase food from there at both lunch and break. During these times, the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) will be available as a quiet space for these two year groups.

Year 9 and 10 will have the B block courts and the area leading up to the crunch including the shelter. They will be allocated B block toilets and the Crunch itself. They can also access the main hall at lunch and break. These zoned areas will convert to a Key Stage 4 only space from September.

The expectation is that students are not allowed into the internal buildings at lunch or break after the first five minutes. Teachers will escort classes to drop off points at the front entrance to each zoned area and students will be allowed in for access only in the last five minutes of movement time to get to lockers. The exceptions are the allocated toilets, LRC (via the external entrance), classrooms A11-16 for clubs, the main hall and A3. The PE, Drama and Music blocks are accessible only if clubs are on. Lunch club for vulnerable students will still be available as normal with access via a card pass.

I wanted to clarify some of the issues that this approach is seeking to address. Firstly, due to the size of the site there are instances of unsupervised student behaviours that do not support a calm and focused environment. The spread out nature of the school site also makes it very difficult to ensure that students remain in the areas where duty supervision is in place and that duty staff can respond promptly to any issues. The change will support our ability to provide higher levels of duty staff in each zoned area to secure safe and staffed areas throughout.

Secondly, we are seeking to stop unauthorised student presence in internal spaces at lunch and break. There have been a number of examples of graffiti, damage and litter making our school environment a less pleasant one, for all members of our community and ultimately having to spend school financial resources on repairs and additional cleaning, rather than improvements to the site and educational resources. Invariably, students inside the building can end up without an adult presence which in turn creates a potential risk to them and others. The zoning will also help create spaces for younger students separate from older year groups including a dedicated area for our new cohort of year 7 from next September to help ease their transition.

The zoning will also help us ensure that students are more easily located at lunch and break when we are seeking to support them or resolve any arising issues.

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With our new approach, staff will be able to spend more time building relationships with our students and conduct informal well-being and mental health checks. I have overleaf outlined below other key areas of specific consideration in relation to the zoning change.

Key considerations

Student break and lunchtime engagement/activities to develop culture of engagement.

The Language corridor will be opened for clubs and engagements at break and lunch. Cards with date/times/names will be issued to those club members and access would be by B block stair well (Year 9 and 10) or cover stairwell (Year 7 and 8).

Bridge access

Students accessing the bridge regardless of Year group can show their bridge card but must make their way directly to the facility.

Lunch and break detentions

Teacher set detentions will take place at lunchtime only initially in classroom A16. Students will register for the detention in A16 and teaching staff will come down and collect students and take them into the adjoining room to undertake any restorative conversations.

Access to staff by children

Staff will pre-agree any catch up sessions and collect students from a pre-agreed location at break or lunch.

Access to shelter

Year 7 and 8 will have access to the main hall and the LRC as well as Year 7 having the A3 common room.

Year 9 and 10 have access to the main hall and the outdoor shelter and link area. In extremely inclement weather we would enact our extreme weather protocol and allow Year 9 and 10 main hall access solely with years 7 and 8 moving to the sports hall.

I hope this goes some way to explain the reasons why we have elected to make this change, We will continue to review and refine our approach to maximise the benefits and address any issues that arise.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Kind regards



Mr P Kinder

Senior Deputy Headteacher

