



To ALL PARENTS & CARERS

Balwearie High School
Kirkcaldy High School
St Andrew's RC High School
Viewforth High School

Education & Children's Services

Shelagh McLean, Head of Education
and Children's Services
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Date: 8 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, we have been working with all our Secondary Headteachers, over the last year, to look at how we deliver a standardised number of learning hours (which will be 27.5 hrs per week) in all our secondary schools.

Following the communication from your headteacher in January, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for providing your feedback to your school. It was important that parents/carers, learners and all staff within each setting were involved in the consultation, and this process has allowed your school to capture all feedback before any decisions were finalised.

As a result of this feedback, your schools are now able to confirm the changes that will be in place from August 2024. Your school is also able to confirm the arrangements for June, when the timetable change will take effect.

To this end, your Headteacher will contact you next week to outline the full changes that are being implemented for your school, however, I can confirm that this will include those schools not already doing so moving to an asymmetric week (i.e. where there are fewer pupil learning periods on a Friday than there are Monday-Thursday).

This change will mean all secondary age learners in our Kirkcaldy schools will benefit from the introduction of a more common school week. This will allow for improved curricular arrangements to be in place (by way of a more aligned timetable across the Kirkcaldy schools) and, therefore, an increase in the opportunities available for young people, through enabling the work towards virtual learning for some subjects, broadening the curriculum offer in each school.

Additionally, where an asymmetric week is in place, studies have shown that more young people access enhanced extra-curricular activities, thereby improving their mental and physical health and wellbeing. Learners engage in wider achievement activities, as more can be coordinated across the Local Authority area. Where there is an asymmetric week, senior learners can use the Friday afternoon to access volunteering or to seek part-time employment, thereby not interrupting their school day, all contributing to their life-skills and the local community. The structure of an asymmetric week also provides the opportunity to enhance the delivery of high-quality career long professional learning opportunities for staff, in line with the GTCS Professional Standards and Professional Learning. It is well understood that when a wide range of high-quality, sustained professional learning is undertaken,

teachers and support staff are more likely to inspire pupils and provide high-quality teaching and learning experiences, enabling learners to achieve their best.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work closely with our bus contract operators to support the required changes to the start/finish times of the school day and information regarding the bus timetables will be issued, as normal, to all pupils entitled to receive transport, prior to school returning in August.

Your school will now communicate with you again, confirming the structure/timings of the school day for your school.

Yours faithfully,

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

Shelagh McLean

Head of Education & Children's Services