



Stepney All Saints School

We Learn Together | We Pray Together | We Achieve Together

Headteacher: Mr P Woods

20th January 2023

Dear parent/carer

At Stepney All Saints School we continually drive to maintain and improve our outstanding curriculum. At the start of this year the curriculum 'working party', a group made up of staff from across the school, began to research and review school curriculums across the country, in particular schools with the same context as ours. The working party identified a number of key areas to address.

- Our students receive less time in the core subjects, English and Mathematics than in other schools.
- Our students received 50 minutes less lesson contact time per week, than 75% of schools in the country.
- Our students study more GCSEs than most students in the country.

The detail of this review is contained in the attached document, 'Curriculum Review'.

The Curriculum Working Party group has made three recommendations and I am now writing to you regarding some significant changes. As I said, these are detailed in the attached document and I encourage you to read this.

These changes will take effect from the new school year in September 2023. It is important to note that current Year 10 students will continue with their current courses and will not be affected.

As head teacher of our outstanding school, I take pride from the strong relationship that we have with you our families and always welcome feedback from you. We have created a google form to capture the thoughts of parents on our proposed changes.

<https://forms.gle/vMPfQMoN8uto96ND9>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher

Review of the timings of the school day and allocations to different subject areas at Key Stage 3 and 4

Rationale

We carried out a benchmarking exercise and considered the practices at other high performing schools in the local area and across London. We concluded that:

- 1) Our students receive less time in English and Maths than in other schools
- 2) The length of our week is shorter than the majority of other schools
- 3) Our students sit the same number, or as in most cases, more GCSEs than other schools and
- 4) Because of points 2) and 3) students at Stepney All Saints have less time for each of their GCSE subjects.

Outcomes

Our Curriculum Working Party group made three recommendations we strongly believe will benefit our students:

- 1) Increase the amount of time our students study English at Key Stage 3
- 2) Increase the amount of time our students study English and Maths at Key Stage 4
- 3) Decrease the number of Open Bucket GCSE Options our students study from three to two to facilitate more learning time for all subjects.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, the English curriculum time allocation will change as follows:

Year Group	Current English Time (minutes)	Proposed English Time (minutes)
Year 7	540	660
Year 8	480	550
Year 9	480	550

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, the English and Maths curricula time allocation will change as follows:

Year Group	Current English Time (minutes)	Proposed English Time (minutes)	Current Maths Time (minutes)	Proposed Maths Time (minutes)
Year 10	480	550	420	550
Year 11	480	550	420	550

Options at Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, our students will study the following range of GCSEs

Core, mandatory GCSEs	EBacc Options		Open Options	
	Humanities Option	Language Option		
	<i>One from</i>	<i>One from</i>	<i>Mandatory</i>	<i>One from</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language • English Literature • Mathematics • Double Award Science (or Triple Science in place of one option) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bengali • Spanish • French 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE • Core PE (no examination) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Business • Computing • DT • Drama • Health and Social Care • ICT • Media Studies • Music • PE • Psychology • Sociology • Sports Science

This spread of GCSEs is greater than many other schools and reducing the number of Open Options by one will increase the time given to the other four Option subjects by 30 minutes.

Length of school day

To fulfil these recommendations and ensure our students continue to study a broad and rigorous curriculum we will amend the length of the school day. Whilst we will ensure continuity for families in the morning by maintaining a start time of 08.40, the school finish time will change.

Therefore, from September 2023:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the school finish time will be 1530
- On Thursday and Friday, the school finish time will be 1440

This gives our students an additional 50 minutes in school per week.

To summarise:

1. School will continue to start at 08.40
2. From the academic year of September 2023:
 - Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the school finish time will be 1530
 - Thursday and Friday, the school finish time will be 1440
 - At Key Stage 3, the English curriculum time allocation will increase
 - At Key Stage 4, the English and Maths curricula time allocation will increase
 - Students will choose one subject from the Open bucket rather than two