



5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Notice of key changes for the 2020/21 academic year**

The response taken nationally by all schools in order to lockdown and prevent the spread of Covid-19 will have had a significant impact upon the education of students. To try and mitigate this loss we will be making a number of changes to the shape of the school week.

As with any new initiative, we would review the effect of this change on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that it is as effective as we expect.

As well as recovering the time lost because of the school shut down we expect that these changes will help to support other improvements as outlined in my previous letter.

These are:

1. **Creating an excellent culture.** We will develop a robust behaviour system that is clearly communicated. Within this we will work hard to eradicate bullying and ensure that staff and students are kind to each other.
2. **Developing excellent teachers.** We will develop a strong programme of professional training and development so that every teacher uses every minute of every lesson to improve outcomes for every child.
3. **Ensuring excellent results.** We need to make sure that everyone gets the results they need to have a choice over their future. Where students are falling behind we will make early interventions to make sure they are not so far behind in years 11 and 13 that they do not achieve their desired outcomes.

Obviously we do not have any certainty with regards to when the school will reopen, however, we feel that it is critical that we speak to you, our community, so that we can garner clear understanding of this change and how it puts the needs of our students first.

**Overview of the school week.**

From September, **OR** when we are fully open, we are proposing to amend the school week to allow us to offer an enhanced provision.

**Currently our school day looks like this:**

- 8.40am-3pm every day.

This equates to c.30 hours per week with 24 hours of actual core learning time when you remove break and lunch times.

Staff training and professional development sessions and meetings take place after school in 1 hour blocks and can't run when other events are on, e.g. parents evenings. This reduces the impact of training and the impact it has on the education that your child receives.

**Our proposed new school day:**

- Monday 9am-3.50pm.
- Tuesday-Thursday 8.30am-3.50pm.
- Friday 8.30am-2pm.

The rationale for this is:

- Staff meetings can all happen at 8am-9am on Monday and 2pm-4pm on Friday. This offers an increase in time for staff to access training, collaborate with their colleagues and implement positive changes which will, in turn, offer improved outcomes to our students.
- The new structure offers c.35 hours a week with 30 hours teaching time which is a significant and positive increase.
- The new structure will allow us to widen our provision and significantly broaden our curriculum offer for your children.

**Changes to our Academic Calendar:**

In order to make this all work we will need to slightly adjust the calendar to front-load all of our Inset days so that staff can be trained effectively and provision for your child is as excellent as possible.

This would mean:

- Staff will return to school on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as per the current calendar.
- 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 will remain as Inset Days.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September become Inset days by moving the Inset days currently calendared for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 becomes an additional inset.
- Years 11 and 7 return to school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- All other year groups return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 become teaching days.

**Next Steps:**

Upon reading this I am sure you may have a number of key questions. Please can I ask you to first read through the FAQs on the next page and, if your question has not been answered, could you contact us using [contact@kirkhallacademy.co.uk](mailto:contact@kirkhallacademy.co.uk) and make Key Changes Question your subject. I hope to be holding an on-line meeting during or shortly after w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June (technology dependent), further detail and links will follow on the website.

Yours sincerely



Damian Belshaw  
Head of School

## FAQs

- **Why change?** The current week does not allow for effective training. The proposed new structure reflects best practice from across a number of schools including many NOVA schools. In addition we need to catch-up with lost time from this period of lockdown as well as ensuring that we put procedures in place for students who were behind the curve before coronavirus struck.
- **What about students who pick up siblings?** Whilst we do understand that this might be an issue for some families, improving the education provision for our students has to be our focus. We will help where we can and will look to work with local primary schools, particularly Ladywood and Dallimore, to find solutions. This may be through the provision of staffing for an after school service or even through a walking train running through to December should it be required.
- **Why is staff training so important?** Time spent working with teachers and improving teaching will support us in achieving the improvement we are working towards in terms of improved behaviour, better lessons and better outcomes. This can only be positive for your child.
- **Why can you not do the staff training before the summer when children are not back at school?** Because we have a number of new staff, these are not contracted to be with us. Additionally lockdown measures mean that large training days would be impossible until restrictions are eased.
- **Why the 9am start on Monday?** The first period on a Monday is always the most difficult. This later start is designed to enable to students to “get back in the groove” of a school week, give staff a way of getting around to see students and also enable leaders to speak to year groups.
- **The different start times will be an issue for some in terms of drop-offs, what if this causes problems for family routines?** Although we will start school at 9am on a Monday, students can access the school earlier and we will be running a breakfast club from 8am each day.
- **Transport issues?** We will ensure that the chartered bus arrives at a slightly later time to collect our students.
- **What about after school clubs?** These will be brought into this day with different activities developed in order to improve the cultural capital of our students.
- **What about if students have external clubs or activities?** Depending upon what these are, we will look to ensure that students can still attend them.
- **Will students be able to adapt to the longer school day?** Quite simply yes. This finish is in-line with many local schools and an extended day has proven to have considerable benefits for the wellbeing of students as we can use the time to ensure we have a well-rounded educational offering.

- **What scrutiny have these plans come under?** Both the Executive Team at NOVA and our Local Governing Body have helped to put together these FAQs by questioning the leadership of the school.
- **What if holidays have been booked?** These changes should not affect holidays as specific terms dates have not been touched, instead, we have merely moved the timings of the Inset days. If you have already booked holidays for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021, we will honour these as authorised absences.

## KHA Academic calendar 2020/21 (UK)

August 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30						1	2
31	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
32	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
33	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
34	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
35	31						

September 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2021							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

**INSET**

**Holiday**