



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref: KRowlands/Summerletter/tp

23rd June 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we look ahead to September, I am writing to inform you of some changes that we are implementing. The changes that we make are carefully thought through, based on research and evidence with the aim of supporting our pupils to be successful.

Firstly, we are reducing the length of each lesson from one hour, to fifty minutes and as a result, create a six-period day. The rationale for this is to increase the pace of the lesson and, to create more flexibility in the way we organise our curriculum and timetable.

This is not a new concept and there are examples of other schools where this model is successfully in place. We believe that this will ultimately help our pupils to make even better progress through greater exposure to high quality teaching and more opportunities to engage with their learning.

The timings of the school day from September will therefore be:

0850	Period 1
0945	Period 2
1035	Break
1050	Period 3
1145	Period 4
1235	Lunch
1320	Registration
1345	Period 5
1440	Period 6

There is a 5minute transitional break between each lesson.

Secondly, we have taken the decision to organise our pupils in mixed ability groups throughout Key Stage Three.

Research conducted by the highly respected Education Endowment Foundation suggests that the benefits of setting are negligible in terms of pupil progress and attainment. Key findings suggest that the impact of setting is 'zero months' overall, with a negative impact reported for lower sets and pupils who are eligible for pupil premium.

Further reading identifies how where setting exists, pupils who are placed in lower prior attaining groups have lower expectations of themselves and as such, a glass ceiling is placed on them with access to some elements of the curriculum becoming limited.

In introducing mixed ability groups, we will expect teachers to teach to the top and then provide support as appropriate. This means that all learners will be exposed to and challenged by all aspects of the curriculum, enabling them to make better progress.

At KS4 there will be no change in the sense that option subjects are already organised as mixed ability and in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science, students are set according to whether they are accessing the foundation tier or the higher tier in their examinations.

Pupils will be advised as to which class they are in before we break for summer.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Rowlands', followed by a long horizontal line.

Mr K Rowlands
Headteacher