

10 May 2015

Dear Parents and students

Changes to the school day and timetable for the 2015-16 academic year.

As a school we are continually looking to improve. One area in which we can and need to make some changes is the timetable and school day structure, particularly in the Secondary school. I have convened a timetable committee chaired by Mr. Sealey to research international best practice, the needs of our school, review priorities highlighted in recent DSIB reports and to come forward with proposals. The committee has done a great deal of work, consulted widely, and I hope that the school day structure they have devised is one that will serve the school for many years.

Primary School.

In order to improve standards in the core subjects: literacy and numeracy, students need to spend more time learning these subjects. This means more homeroom time. This should not come at the price of any of the specialist teaching subjects such as languages or PE. We will be lengthening the school day on Tuesday so that it ends at 2.30pm, as with all the other days. Extra-curricular activities will run from 2.30 – 3.30pm Sundays to Wednesdays. The school day will remain the same, starting at 7.45 am. In KG the teaching of Music will be shared between the homeroom teacher and a specialist teacher.

If you have children in both Primary and Secondary we recommend that you choose ECA's on the same day to make lifting easier. The alignment of the ending times of school for Primary and Secondary will remove the need for aftercare.

Secondary School

- The lesson length will increase from 60 to 80 minutes. This was the practice at the school for many years. 4 lessons a day for Grade 6 – 10 and 5 for Grades 11 and 12.
- The School Day will end at 2:30 for Grades 6 – 10 (MYP) and 3:30 for Grades 11 and 12 (DP and CP)
- We will be lengthening the school day on Tuesday so that it ends at 2.30pm, as with all the other days.
- There will be a two-week schedule. (A ten-day timetable)
- The length of the breaks will be reduced: 20 minutes for first break and 40 minutes for lunch break.

- Extra-curricular activities will run from 2.30 – 3.30pm Sundays to Wednesdays.
No more electives in the timetable – these are now ECA's.

The school day structure will be:

| | | Secondary School | | | |
|--------|--------------|------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | Starts | Ends | Length | |
| Start | Homeroom | 7:50 | 8:05 | 0:15 | |
| | Period 1 | 8:05 | 9:25 | 1:20 | |
| | Period 2 | 9:30 | 10:50 | 1:20 | |
| | Break | 10:50 | 11:10 | 0:20 | |
| | Period 3 | 11:10 | 12:30 | 1:20 | |
| | Lunch | 12:30 | 13:10 | 0:40 | |
| Finish | Period 4 | 13:10 | 14:30 | 1:20 | Bus 1 |
| | ECA/ Diploma | 14:30 | 15:30 | 1:20 | Bus 2 |

The benefits will be increased contact time.

Changes in contact time in Grades 6-10 (MYP).

| | Islamic/ Cult. Std. | Maths | English | Arabic A/B | Sci | DT | Hum | PE | Mus/Art | MFL |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|
| Grade 6 | Same | Up 20 | Up 20 | Same/Up 60 | Up 20 | Up 60 | Up 40 | Same | Same | Up 40 |
| Grade 7 | Same | Up 20 | Up 20 | Same/Up 60 | Up 20 | Up 60 | Up 40 | Same | Same | Up 40 |
| Grade 8 | Same | Up 60 | Up 20 | Same/Up 60 | Up 20 | Down 20 | Up 40 | Same | Same | Up 40 |
| Grade 9 | Same | Up 60 | Up 20 | Same/Up 60 | Up 20 | Down 20 | Up 40 | Same | Same | Up 40 |
| Grade 10 | Same | Up 60 | Up 60 | Down 20 | Up 60 | Up 60 | Up 40 | Up 40 | Up 40 | Up 40 |
| TOTALS | Same | Up 220 | Up 140 | A: Down 20 B: Up 240 | Up 140 | Up 140 | UP 200 | Up 40 | UP 40 | Up 200 |

Subject Choices in MYP

- In Grades 6 and 7 students will do both Music and Art, which will be semesterised.
- Students must choose Music or Art after Grade 7.
- Students must choose either Arabic or MFL in Grade 10 – Arabic A students must take Arabic.

- Drama becomes an ECA
- IT will no longer be a stand-alone subject, but will be integrated into the curriculum. Grade 10 students who took CT in Grade 9 can continue in CT for the 2015-16 year.

Changes in contact time in the Diploma Programme

| | BK1: LANG A - English Self Taught | BK 2: LANG B - French, German, Arabic, English | BK 3 – Math SL, Studies | BK 4 – SCIENCES Physics, Biology | BK 5 – HUMANITIES History, ITGS, Business & Management | BK 6 – MISC. Arts, Geography, Chemistry | “Free” Study time |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | SL 180 HL 225 | SL 180 HL 225 | Stud 180 SL 225 | SL 180 HL 225 | SL 180 HL 225 | SL 180 HL 225 | UP to 330 minutes per week |
| 2015-16 | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | UP to 240 minutes per week |
| TOTAL | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | Stud UP 20 HL Up 15 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | Down 90 minutes |

The total contact time for all Diploma Programme students will increase. Standard Level subjects must be taught for 150 hours and Higher Level of 240 hours. We will be providing more than the required hours. Allowances have been made for public holidays and the Grade 12 examinations.

| Current Grade 12s | | | | | Future Cohorts | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| | SL Mins. | SL Hours | HL Mins. | HL Hours | | SL Mins. | SL Hours | HL Mins. | HL Hours |
| Year 1 DP | 35.6 x 180 | 106.8 | (14x202.5) + (21.6x 240) | 133.5 | Year 1 DP | 35.6 x 200 | 118.7 | 35.6 x 240 | 142.4 |
| Year 2 DP | 28.2 x 200 | 94.0 | 28.2x240 | 112.8 | Year 2 DP | 28.2 x 200 | 94.0 | 28.2x240 | 112.8 |
| Totals | | 200.8 | | 246.3 | Totals | | 212.7 (up 12) | | 255.2 (up 9) |
| TOK 1 | 35.6x120 | 71 | | | TOK 1 | 35.6x 120 | 71 | | |
| TOK 2 | 24x120 | 50 | | | TOK 2 | 24x120 | 50 | | |
| Totals | | 121 | | | | | 121 | | |

Arabic Requirements for Grade 11 and 12 students

| | Islamic | Thanaweya (Ministry course for Arab passport holders taking Arabic B). |
|---------|-------------|--|
| 2014-15 | 160 minutes | 160 minutes |
| 2015-16 | 160 minutes | 160 minutes |
| | Same | Same |

IBCP 11 and 12

| | BTEC- | BK 2: LANG B - French, German, Arabic, English | BK 4 - SCIENCES ATL and Language Development | BK 5 - HUMANITIES History, ITGS, Business & Management | BK 6 - MISC. Arts, Geography, Chemistry | "Free" Study time |
|---------|-------------|---|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 8 Hours | 0 minutes | ATL - 120 min Lang D - 60 min | SL 180 HL 225 | SL 180 HL 225 | UP to 560 minutes per week |
| 2015-16 | 8 Hours | SL 200 HL 240 | ATL - 160 min Lang D - 80 min | SL 200 HL 240 | SL 200 HL 240 | UP to 240 minutes per week |
| TOTAL | Same | SL UP 200 HL Up 240 | ATL - UP 40 Lang D - Up 20 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | SL UP 20 HL Up 15 | Down 320 minutes |

Andrew Wood

Principal