



Corfe Hills School

High Expectations | Exceptional Individuals

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Deputy Headteacher: James Sankey MEng

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CorfeHillsSchoolAcademyTrust

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Dear Parent/Carer

Reading Programme and Changes to the School Day

“Books shouldn’t be daunting, they should be funny, exciting and wonderful; and learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.” - Roald Dahl

“A greater percentage of primary than secondary aged children view themselves as ‘a reader’” (Ofsted: Reading for pleasure)

At Corfe Hills School, we believe it is important to support our students in developing their love of reading. Research suggests that the majority of young people enjoy reading but that by secondary age they are reading less frequently. Developing the resilience and concentration that is required to read challenging texts is vital if we are to create young adults who read for enjoyment.

Our reading programme, We are Readers, which has been trialled in English lessons since the beginning of September, has been giving our students the opportunity to enjoy some classic literature simply for pleasure. So far, Year 9 and 10 students have read short stories by D.H. Lawrence and Graham Swift and their reactions have been hugely positive.

Teachers are identifying more complex language to define for students as the texts are shared; this strategy is already resulting in students using more challenging vocabulary in their writing and discussion.

From January, this shared reading will take place during a timetabled slot every day of the week. In order to achieve this we are proposing some slight changes to the school day. The beginning of the school day will remain the same with students arriving at 0830 for an 0840 start for period 1. The end of the school day will change from 1500 to 1505 on Monday to Wednesday and the school day will finish at 1445 on Thursday and Friday. The proposed structure for the school week is in the table below. The only difference between the structure for Monday to Wednesday and Thursday and Friday is that tutor time takes place on three days each week (Monday to Wednesday). There is negligible change to the overall contact time that students receive during the school week.

Monday to Wednesday			
	Start	Finish	Duration
Students arrive in school at 0830 for 0840 start			
Period 1	0840	0936	56
We are Readers	0940	1000	20
Period 2	1004	1100	56
Break	1100	1120	20
Period 3	1120	1216	56
Period 4	1220	1315	55
Lunch	1315	1350	35
Tutor Time	1350	1406	16
Period 5	1410	1505	55

Thursday and Friday			
	Start	Finish	Duration
Students arrive in school at 0830 for 0840 start			
Period 1	0840	0936	56
We are Readers	0940	1000	20
Period 2	1004	1100	56
Break	1100	1120	20
Period 3	1120	1216	56
Period 4	1220	1315	55
Lunch	1315	1350	35
Period 5	1350	1445	55

Assistant Headteachers: Tracey King BA, Sara Jones BA **School Business Manager:** Sheila Way FCCA
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We are in dialogue with the bus companies who provide transport for students to ensure arrangements are in place to accommodate the changes to the school day.

Initially the reading programme will be for students in Years 9 and 10. Students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form will use the extra 20 minutes each day for additional mentoring and academic support for their GCSE and A-level courses.

Should you wish to respond to our proposed changes to the school day we welcome your feedback and ask that you send your response to office@corfehills.net putting "We are Readers feedback" in the subject line by Friday 11 October.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Sankey
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs E Rayner
English Faculty Leader