



# The Birkenhead Park School

15 March 2018

Dear Parent

I am pleased to share with you some exciting changes that we will be implementing from September 2018.

I am sure you are aware that the Government has introduced new style GCSE examinations that are more challenging than previously. To give our students the best chance of achieving the highest grades possible in these new qualifications, whilst increasing curriculum time for vocational and creative arts subjects, we will be increasing the number of teaching periods from 24 to 26 per week. I am delighted that this will allow Year 7, 8 and 9 students to access a broader range of subjects, including Drama, Music and Art, at a time when many schools are choosing to reduce curriculum time in these areas. Year 10 and 11 students will be able to access increased curriculum time in the core subjects of English and Mathematics in the crucial final two years of their secondary education.

Whilst academic qualifications are clearly important, we firmly believe that our students need to leave education equipped with a wider set of skills to become employable and prepared for the many new learning experiences that they will have to face throughout their lifetime. Our new curriculum will enable students to develop vital skills such as creativity, leadership, teamwork, independence, effective communication and resilience through our exciting new "Character" programme in Key Stage 3.

We are very excited by these new developments and are looking forward to implementing these changes for the benefit of all our students. On the reverse of this letter I have included the new school day/week for your reference. This will operate for all students from September 2018. Bus providers have been consulted and are aware of the new timings of the school day.

We hope that you will agree that these plans will enhance students' experience and would ask for your support in working with us to take full advantage of these new opportunities.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year. We will also be hosting a drop in session at school on **Monday 19 March at 4.00pm** should you still have any unanswered questions.

Yours faithfully

Helen Johnson  
Headteacher

Headteacher: Helen Johnson  
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| School Day 2018/2019             | Monday                         | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                      | Thursday                       | Friday                         |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| breakfast club/independent study | 7.45 - 8.30                    | 7.45 - 8.30                    | 7.45 - 8.30                    | 7.45 - 8.30                    | 7.45 - 8.30                    |
| Start of school day/ tutor time  | 8.35 - 9.05                    | 8.35 - 9.05                    | 8.35 - 9.05                    | 8.35 - 9.05                    | 8.35 - 9.05                    |
| Period 1                         | 9.05 - 10.05                   | 9.05 - 10.05                   | 9.05 - 10.05                   | 9.05 - 10.05                   | 9.05 - 10.05                   |
| Period 2                         | 10.05 - 11.05                  | 10.05 - 11.05                  | 10.05 - 11.05                  | 10.05 - 11.05                  | 10.05 - 11.05                  |
| <b>Break</b>                     | <b>Break<br/>11.05 - 11.25</b> | <b>Break<br/>11.05 - 11.25</b> | <b>Break<br/>11.05 - 11.25</b> | <b>Break<br/>11.05 - 11.25</b> | <b>Break<br/>11.05 - 11.25</b> |
| Period 3                         | 11.25 - 12.25                  | 11.25 - 12.25                  | 11.25 - 12.25                  | 11.25 - 12.25                  | 11.25 - 12.25                  |
| Period 4                         | Period 4<br>12.25 - 1.25       | Period 4<br>12.25 - 1.25       | Period 4<br>12.25 - 1.25       | Period 4<br>12.25 - 1.25       | <b>Lunch<br/>12.25 - 1.00</b>  |
| <b>Lunch</b>                     | <b>Lunch<br/>1.25 - 2.00</b>   | <b>Lunch<br/>1.25 - 2.00</b>   | <b>Lunch<br/>1.25 - 2.00</b>   | <b>Lunch<br/>1.25 - 2.00</b>   | Period 4<br><b>1.00 - 2.00</b> |
| Period 5                         | 2.00 - 3.00                    | 2.00 - 3.00                    | 2.00 - 3.00                    | 2.00 - 3.00                    | Students finish<br>2pm         |
| Period 6                         | 3.00 - 4.00                    | 3.00 - 4.00                    | Students finish<br>3pm         | Students finish<br>3pm         |                                |

Students finish  
4pm

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