

Assessment and Marking

Teachers will assess at the start and end of each cycle. A formal assessment will also be undertaken during week eleven to provide essential feedback on how effectively each student can apply their knowledge and inform next steps. Teaching staff will continually assess students work, progress and attitude to learning. Often this will be during lessons and be 'live' assessment as this provides instant feedback to students. Assessment may include: short prompts, live marking, questioning, oral feedback, teacher feedback, self assessment and peer assessment.

'Prep' time

For the final session of the day students will return to tutor bases for 20-minutes of 'prep' time. This will be independent, self directed study and reflection with an emphasis on silent work. These sessions will allow students to develop good study habits and complete: reading work, revision, homework and reflection tasks. By introducing these sessions across the school students will be encouraged to develop skills that will build confidence and independence.

'Prep' time will be supervised by form tutors in tutor bases. Students will have access to their knowledge organisers, homework books and reading books. Students will not need access to Class Charts or computers to help with this work.

Assemblies, intervention and support sessions will happen during 'prep' time. Students leaving school slightly early to support sports fixtures will not disrupt learning as this will take place during 'prep' time.

Lesson Length

We have spent time reviewing our current school day. Schools must provide 25 hours of education every week. Currently we deliver 20-minutes of tutor time daily along with six 50-minutes lessons. This totals over 26 hours per week. After careful consideration we have decided to reduce the number of lessons per day to five but increase lesson time to one hour. This means students will have 5 lessons per day, registration and 'prep' time; an increase of 50-minutes per week.

One hour lessons will allow for deeper questioning, assessment and feedback. To make the timing of the school day work, we will start the day 5 minutes earlier; lunch will also move. School will finish at 15:20 as we currently do, except for Friday when we will finish at 15:00.

School Day

The current school week consists of 1600 minutes of registration and lesson time, the new model will provide 1655 minutes per week, including the earlier finish on Friday. This includes 80-minutes per week of 'prep' time to support independent study.

08:45 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	Lesson 1
10:00 - 11:00	Lesson 2
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:20	Lesson 3
12:20 - 13:20	Lesson 4
13:20 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Lesson 5
15:00 - 15:20	'Prep' time (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) School will finish at 15:00 on Friday

INSET Days and Term Dates

As we move to a 12-week learning cycle, the staff will need time to work together at the end of each assessment to review what has gone well and identify areas of misconception which need re-teaching. To support this, we propose to change our published non-pupil (INSET) days for September 2019 - July 2020.

The new dates will be:

Monday 2nd September 2019
Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Monday 2nd December 2019
Monday 23rd March 2020
Monday 6th July 2020

We understand that a few families may have made arrangements for our published days. If this is the case, we will work with parents on an individual basis to resolve this.

THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 2019



PARENT LEAFLET Important Information

As you are aware, Park School is determined to continue to improve the school to support our vision of providing the best education and opportunities for the students in our community.

This leaflet provides detail about important changes for our curriculum from September 2019.

Why change?

Our students and community deserve the very best. We aim to provide them with the opportunities to succeed at school and beyond.

We have made many positive strides to develop the school over the past few years. However, we want to achieve more so that every student has the best opportunity and can succeed.

Our students and community deserve the best; we have the highest expectations of all members of our community and seek to provide excellence for all.

The school has developed over the past few years with improvements in teaching & learning, curriculum offerings, attitude to learning and literacy. We remain proud of our excellent pastoral structure and house system.

The changes we have planned will help to continue our journey of improvement. They uphold our values of aspiration, community, resilience, respect, honesty, acceptance, trust and responsibility.

Our changes will help to build independence and resilience which are key characteristics for any youngster in modern society. Allowing students to fail in a safe way, to understand that learning is a journey not a destination and that with the right attitude, environment and support all students can achieve to their potential.

What will change?

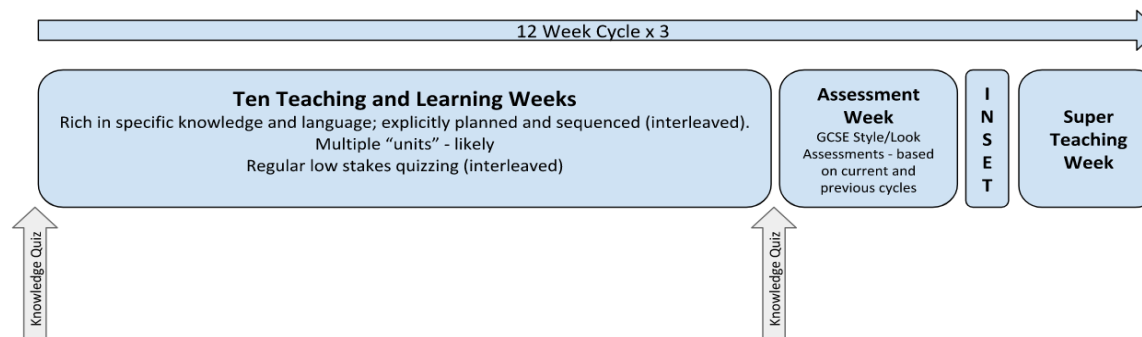
- Increase of lesson length to one hour lessons.
- The introduction of 'prep' time to develop independent learning.
- The introduction of teaching cycles to cover and recap key knowledge and content.
- A clear, simple and concise homework policy for all.
- The introduction of knowledge organisers (KOs) across the school to develop the knowledge of our students.
- The placement of INSET/non pupil days on the school calendar.
- Increased clarity over current expectations for attitude to learning.

What will stay the same?

Many aspects of school life will remain the same such as class sizes, grouping, the house system, the tutor system, lessons taught in year groups, GCSE options, specialist teachers, uniform, school name and logo, to note just a few.

Learning Cycles

We will introduce 14 learning cycles across a school career: cycles 1,2 & 3 in Y7; 4,5 & 6 in Y8 and so on with just two in Y11. Each cycle will be 12 weeks in length, regardless of when the school holidays may fall. Each cycle will start with a short low stakes quiz to assess prior knowledge and understanding. This will ensure teaching is matched to students' needs and has appropriate challenge. Key knowledge will be included in knowledge organisers for each subject and lessons will build on the knowledge and develop deeper understanding through application. In the final week of the learning cycle, a learning review week will take place where teachers will plan and deliver lessons to correct any misconceptions and re-teach areas of weakness based on the assessment weeks. The newly placed INSET days will be used by teachers to plan these lessons.



Use of Knowledge Organisers

At the start of each learning cycle students will be issued with a knowledge organiser. This will be a booklet that contains all the essential knowledge, vocabulary and content for each subject for that teaching cycle. Students will be provided with a plastic folder to keep these safe and will be expected to bring the knowledge organiser to school each day.

At the start of each learning cycle students will complete a simple knowledge test. The information for this will be used as a benchmark and to help inform subsequent teaching. Students do not need to revise for this quiz. At the end of the 10 week teaching block students will revisit the same quiz to check on progress.

In week 11 of each cycle students will undertake an assessment week. Each subject will conduct a short (up to 50-minutes) assessment based on knowledge, understanding and application of the learning for that cycle and previous cycles. Frequent lower stakes assessments will help students build resilience in preparation for examinations and provide a timely and accurate understanding of each student. Following the assessment week, staff will deliver a week of recap lessons, re-teaching any specific information that students have struggled with.

Homework

Knowledge organisers will be directly used for homework to improve students' subject knowledge and vocabulary. Students in Y7 - Y9 will be expected to spend 60-minutes each day on homework, split between three subjects. In addition Y10 and Y11 students will have a combination of knowledge organiser homework and exam questions to support their learning.

Homework will consist of students using the knowledge organiser to learn, revise and test themselves on key knowledge on each subject. The homework will be recorded in a homework book which tutors will check each morning to ensure homework has been completed to a good standard. Homework will be published in advance to allow students the opportunity to plan their time and make effective use of 'prep' time, homework clubs and time out of school.

Why? We know that regular quizzing and self-testing is the best way to learn key knowledge and vocabulary which is an essential part of learning.

As homework will be clearly set and published in advance, along with the resources needed to complete homework, this will eliminate any issues when completing homework.