



9<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank you for your feedback regarding the proposed changes to the school schedule for Ark Helenswood Academy.

As I outlined during the meeting we held on these proposals, the changes have been put forward to support students in preparation for the requirements of new, linear GCSEs, which cover more subjects, and in greater depth than ever before. Other schools are adopting a similar approach, and we believe these changes are crucial to preparing our students for going on to university and the career of their choice.

Many of you took the time to send in questions and comments, and I want to thank all of you for your passionate interest in our school. Rather than respond individually to each query, we have put together a questions and answers document - attached to this letter - which we believe addresses all the pertinent issues and concerns that have been raised.

We have sought your feedback on these decisions because we want to be as transparent and responsive as possible in decisions that affect our school community. In response to what we have heard from the community about our proposed new schedule, we have altered our plans so that the new extended day only applies to Years 9-11 on Mondays and Tuesdays. These changes will now be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

| Day                 | Year Group | New finish time |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Monday to Friday    | 7 and 8    | 3.05            |
| Monday and Tuesday  | 9 to 11    | 4.05            |
| Wednesday to Friday | 9 to 11    | 3.05            |

I believe we are all working towards the same goal: the best education possible for the students of Ark Helenswood Academy. With that in mind, I thank you once again for taking such an active role in responding to issues affecting your child and our school.

You should find answers to any questions you might have in the document attached.

Yours faithfully

Ms T Dohel  
Principal



Principal: Tracy Dohel