

Uccle, 1. July 2019

Dear parents,

We've received requests for further clarifications to the change in the secondary timetable, specifically asking what the reasoning for the change is.

We hope that this set of points will make things clearer:

Current timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.10-8.55	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
9.00-9.45	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
9.50-10.35	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
10.55-11.40	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
11.45-12.30	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
12.35-13.20	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Yellow	
13.25-14.10	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Black	
14.15-15.00	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Black	
15.05-15.50	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Black	
	8	8	5	8	6	35

New Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.10-8.55	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
9.00-9.45	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
9.50-10.35	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
10.55-11.40	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
11.45-12.30	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
12.35-13.20	Green	Green	Blue	Green	Green	
13.25-14.10	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Orange	
14.15-15.00	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Orange	
15.05-15.50	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow	Orange	
	8	8	5	8	8	37

./.

	Scheduled lessons for all students in the old and new schedule
	Possible periods that can be scheduled for lessons for S6 and S7
	The main change- All classes will now have scheduled classes here
	Usual lunch period- where this is scheduled for a lesson it is usual to be free directly before or after.
	In the old timetable this period was generally not scheduled for S1,2 and 3

Year	Min periods possible	Max periods possible
S1	33	35 (with ONL Irish or Maltese)
S2	33	37 (with ONL Irish or Maltese and Latin)
S3	31	37 (with ONL Irish or Maltese and either Latin or ICT)
S4	31	35 (any 2 of Art/ Music /IT,)
S5	31	35 (any 2 of Art/ Music /IT)
S6	31	35 - (exceptions for 36 or 37 <i>on request</i>)
S7	31	35 - (exceptions for 36 or 37 <i>on request</i>)

In the coming school year we will utilise the full timetable for all year groups. Previously S1, 2 and 3 were generally not scheduled for classes after 13:30 on a Friday. This meant that most students have only 1 or 2 free periods throughout the week – all of their free periods being concentrated on a Friday afternoon. This change was introduced in our school about 10 years ago as it made the supervision of students easier. Unfortunately it also had some other side effects which in the management's opinion were not in the best interests of the students:

- Our students generally have long days, starting (in some cases) with a one-hour bus journey and finishing the same way. In the current model they have little to no free time during this long day. In the new timetable students will have their free periods spread out over the week.
- The new timetable, with more possible slots for placing lessons, allows for a better spread of subjects across the week - allowing us to reduce the amount of double lessons forced into the same day.
- In some periods we currently do not have enough 'specialist' rooms (ICT/Science/PE) for the numbers of lessons planned - this change will improve this situation and reduce the numbers of lessons taught outside the specialist room.
- Students who needed extra lessons such as educational support, were limited in the available periods to place these sessions.
- SWALS students, ONL students, and some support students had to take some of their lessons outside the normal scheduled hours – like on Friday afternoons - leaving them feeling unfairly treated by having to remain in school when their peers had left.

We will now have to prepare for more students with free periods throughout the week. We feel that students should have options during their free periods. NOT ALL FREE PERIODS SHOULD BECOME "MANDATORY" STUDY/HOMEWORK PERIODS. Students should feel free to have recreation time with friends, library time for reading or research, sports activities outside in the fresh air, take extra lessons offered by the school or in some cases just a catch up period offered by a teacher. We will need to work with students to help them make the correct choices for themselves - choosing to study or do homework during busy periods or choosing to relax and chat with friends when they are up to date. This autonomy becomes more important in the years leading up to (and through) university, and needs to become part of the way students think early in the secondary.

./.

One of the other impacts of this change is that due to the late notice of the change the APEEE Service - who arrange the school transportation - were not in a position to organise transport in *both* slots on a given Friday (middle and end of the day) as they currently do. This means that those students of M1, M2, P1 and P2 who cannot be collected at 12:30 will need to attend day-care (garderie). I hope that in future years the APEEE service will be able to examine the viability of running services early and late in the day on Friday.

I hope that this explanation gives a clear picture of the rationale behind the decision.

Best regards,

Brian GOGGINS
Director