



April 2018



Dear Colleague,



In recent years, the popularity of Bury CE High School has remained strong. We have been significantly oversubscribed in our admissions for many years. The addition of new buildings such as the Sports Hall and the Drama Room, have allowed us to increase the number of places available for children transferring from Primary School. Currently the school can offer 162 places. This number came into force last September and was an increase due to the completion of the Drama Room.



One of the consequences of being a very popular school is that several applications for a place that do not succeed at first; are then successful on appeal. Last year the school admitted 182 pupils to its Year 7 in September. This year, as things stand, we have 162 pupils who have been awarded places and we expect several more will gain a place through the appeal process or by late applications.



The current number of pupils officially able to have a place at Bury CE High School is 786. In September this will rise to 792. It will continue to rise for the next three years and will eventually reach 810.



We have the capacity to accommodate and educate these extra pupils but the increased numbers does create an additional pressure. That pressure is the time it takes to get all the children through the dining hall at lunch time. Due to the good quality of the restaurant food and the fact that it is fresh; cooked on site; locally and ethically sourced; the meals are very popular, with the vast majority of the pupils choosing to buy their lunch in the restaurant. This year, once things settled down, we were able to just get every pupil through in the 50 minutes that are set aside for lunchtime. As numbers rise, it is clear that this is not going to be feasible in the future.



The Governing Body is therefore consulting on the proposal to extend the school day by 15 minutes so that lunchtime can be extended by the same amount of time. This will mean that school would start at 08:35, five minutes earlier than at present, and would finish at 15:45; 14:35 on a Friday, ten minutes later than at present. Lunch time would then start at 12:20, instead of 12:25, and would end at 13:25 instead of 13:15 as happens at present.

It is hoped that these minor changes to the start and end time of the school day will not cause any major disruption to the morning and evening travel patterns of the staff or pupils. They would also have the benefit of making the length of lunch time sufficient so that, were any further growth encountered, a split lunch pattern could be established without the need to further increase the length of the school day. Having longer for lunch time will allow us to ensure that, as our numbers increase, we can accommodate everyone in our Lily and Crown restaurant. It will make life easier when carrying out afternoon registration as pupils would not be able to use the cover of being delayed in the dining hall as a credible excuse for a late arrival.



DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS: Mrs T Astley BEd (Hons) NPQSL

Mrs M Brothers BA (Hons)

Mrs H Martin BA (Hons)

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS: Mrs E Watson BSc (Hons)

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER / DIRECTOR OF ENGLISH: Mrs L Brannon-Barnett BA (Hons)

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An added benefit of a longer lunch time will be staff would get a longer break between morning and afternoon school. If any staff are delivering extra-curricular activities, they would be less pressurised and rushed. There directed time budget for teaching staff would be unaffected and support staff hours would not need to change.

We would like to know what your thoughts are on changing the school day in the way described above. Please send any comments to Mrs M Johnson, Clerk to the Governors, Bury CE High School, Haslam Brow, Bury, BL9 0TS to be received no later than Friday 18th May 2018.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd. C Watson
Head Teacher



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