

4th May 2018



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Dear Parent / Carer

Changes to Delivery of Personal Support

I write to inform you of a change we are making to our secondary timetable. As you will know, all secondary pupils have contact with their register/personal support teacher each day – for ten minutes first thing on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and for 30 minutes in the middle of the morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Further to consultation with pupils and staff, we have now decided to reduce the sessions on Tuesdays and Thursday to ten minutes, in line with the other days, and also to place this session first thing in the morning.

As with most other schools, some years ago we adopted extended sessions within the week for 'personal support'. The purpose of this time was to allow personal support teachers the opportunity to develop further their relationship with the young people in their personal support group and support them both academically and personally. This time was also used on occasion to work with pupils on whole school matters such as health and well-being and recording of individual achievements.

However, recent discussions with our pupil councils and consultation with staff suggest that a majority of both groups feel that, whilst there are some benefits to having this time, these did not justify the allocation of an hour a week to this end. It is worth noting that several other schools in Perth and Kinross have conducted similar consultations and come to the same conclusion.



Education & Children's Services
Executive Director (Education & Children's Services) Sheena Devlin



With the change of timetable next week, we will therefore move to a ten minute slot each day for registration/personal support, which will continue to be mixed by year group. We feel that this change will maintain a daily contact between register/personal support teacher and pupils, whilst freeing up an additional forty minutes in the week for learning and teaching. This ten minute slot will also be extended on occasion when a greater period of time is required to deliver whole school inputs. Please note also that the recording of pupil achievement will now take place, supported by your child's guidance teacher, during Personal and Social Education.

Finally, it is important that I point out that this change will result in our lunch break changing to 1pm to 2pm each day.

I hope this letter provides a reasonable summary of this change, but please do get in touch with me or a member of the senior management team should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Devine', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Devine
Headteacher