



11 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we prepare for the start of a new school session, I'd like to re-share some very important key changes to help improve time keeping and efficiency across our school day.

During May '21, we tracked and monitored the times that our pupils were arriving to school. We found on average, 19% of our young people were arriving to school late and after their lessons had started – most often 5 to 10 minutes after the bell. In addition to this, approximately 35 young people were being consistently dropped off by parents/carers after the start of the school day.

I am sure you will agree, this could improve. We relentlessly teach our young people the necessary skills for work as we know that arriving on time is a priority for every employer. In all workplaces, late coming will result in disciplinary procedures that can result in dismissal. It is also not uncommon for wages to be 'docked' in certain industries.

Furthermore, the impact on attainment and achievement due to arriving late for school can be detrimental. Researching information - <https://www.gov.scot/collections/school-education-statistics/> - it is evident that young people in Scotland with a more positive attendance pattern achieve more qualifications, better grades and increase their chances of reaching a positive and sustainable school leaver destination. To put into context, just 10 minutes each day equates to 1 full period missed per week. Over the course of the year that's the equivalent of a National 5 or Higher unit of work being missed, which in some cases is the same as a third of a qualification course. It is also a significant disruption to the lesson which has already started and impacts negatively on the learning of others.

Therefore, one of the key changes we have implemented is the introduction of new school bells to better signal the start of lessons. These are:

Mornings

- 08.40am – a first bell to indicate to pupils that the morning has started, and pupils should be making their way to class
- 08.45am – a second bell to indicate the start of learning, and pupils should now be in their period 1 class and settled for learning

Afternoons (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

- 1.55pm – a first bell to indicate that lunch is over, the afternoon has started, and pupils should be making their way to class
- 2.00pm – a second bell to indicate the start of learning, and pupils should now be in their period 6 class and settled for learning

Afternoons (Thursday, Friday)

- 1.05pm – a first bell to indicate that lunch is over, the afternoon has started, and pupils should be making their way to class
- 1.10pm – a second bell to indicate the start of learning, and pupils should now be in their period 5 class and settled for learning

Helpfully, the first and second bells have different tones.

By raising awareness of this matter, and with your support, I do hope that we can place a particular emphasis on all young people arriving to school on time from 17 August 2021.

Yours sincerely,
H McAninch
Headteacher