

January 2019

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Phased introduction of a 32 period week and a common school day across all East Lothian secondary schools

I write to inform you that East Lothian Council approved a phased* introduction to a change in the structure and timings of the secondary school week from academic session 2019/20 onwards. A non-statutory feasibility consultation and exploration of effective curriculum structures in operation across Scotland was carried out to inform the decision about the future structure of the secondary school day and the potential educational benefits for our young people.

The implementation of a common school secondary day has the potential to enhance accessibility to a broader curriculum offer within the senior phase, in line with the Council's ambition to reduce inequalities across our communities, implement the recommendations within the Poverty Commission Action Plan and deliver on the expectations set out within the Scottish Government's Developing The Young Workforce Youth Employment Strategy.

The Empowering School Agreement, June 2018 between the Scottish Government and local authorities sets out a commitment to supporting a culture of empowering school leaders. This commitment includes supporting Headteachers to be adaptive and creative in their approach to leading learning and teaching and developing learner pathways that meet the needs of all learners. The implementation of a new secondary school day across all East Lothian secondary schools will support Headteachers to further enhance the design of the curriculum in line with the Principles of Curriculum for Excellence¹ and the recommendations detailed within the Scottish Government's 15-24 Learner Journey Review Report 2018². At a school level, curriculum teams will have the opportunity to use the flexibility afforded by the 32 period week to increase curricular opportunities and maximise collaboration with other schools and partners, such as Further and Higher Education establishments.

Further information on what this means for you and your child will be provided by your Head Teacher, in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Robertson
Head of Education

¹ Principles of Curriculum for Excellence

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/CfEFactfileOverview.pdf>

² 15-24 Learner Journey Review Report 2018 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/15-24-learner-journey-review-9781788518741/pages/2/>

*Phase 1 – June 2019 Dunbar Grammar School, Knox Academy and Musselburgh Grammar School

*Phase 2 – June 2020 North Berwick High School, Preston Lodge High School and Ross High School