



9 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We trust that you all had a restful break and that students are excited for the term ahead. It was fantastic to welcome the students back into school yesterday and we enjoyed a calm and positive start to the term.

Messages from Head of School, Mrs Hilton

Uniform

We mean to begin the new term with increased focus on our high expectations for remarkable students. In this spirit, we believe that sharp standards of uniform help to contribute to a strong school ethos. Please do take a moment to remind yourself of our guidance: [School Uniform and Equipment - John Flamsteed Community School \(jfcs.org.uk\)](https://www.jfcs.org.uk)

We would appreciate your support in reminding students to:

- wear their blazer to school – a coat or jumper are additional items to be layered with a blazer. Hoodies are not allowed.
- wear only prescribed full length black trousers – no jeans or leggings are permitted
- wear black shoes– trainers should not be worn.
- remove elaborate gel and false nails as these are not appropriate for school

Making announcements

A reminder that we also now have whole-school announcements sent through Class Charts. This feature will allow us to communicate important information to all students and parents, such as school closures and upcoming events, as well as the sharing of letters and publications. We hope that this will improve communication and keep everyone informed about what's happening at school.

As part of this feature, we have introduced Consent Forms. This will allow you to easily provide consent for activities such as intervention classes or extra-curricular events.

Messages from Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Frost-Briggs

The JF Big Ask 2.0

Student Voice is important to me as Head Teacher. I spoke in Assembly yesterday to all students about how their opinions had shaped improvements in the school over the last year and how they, as the most important people at JF, should be agents of change to make their school the best possible experience for them. Last year, we conducted a whole school student voice activity called The JF Big Ask which led to a lot of changes being made to change the school for the better. These included:

- new configurations to the Science toilets
- more lunchtime supervision
- changes to the cafeteria food to widen healthy options and increase popular choices
- a 'Call It Out' button on the website for reporting bullying or unkindness

- higher frequency of toilets being checked and cleaned
- the setting up of the Student Council to more regularly report into the leadership of the school as to how students are feeling and what's going well and not so well in school.

I am now seeking to offer students a further opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about the school by conducting The JF Big ask 2.0! It would be remiss of me not to continually seek to improve the school experience for your child and now we have settled our new Year 7 cohort into the school, it seems the ideal juncture to glean the thoughts and feelings of all students and ensure that they have an impact on decisions we make as school leaders. Once the survey has been completed and analysed, I will look forward to communicating the outcomes to you all.

The School Day

I have recently reviewed the timings of the school day with staff and students. Following a period of consultation with staff and feedback from our Student Council, we have taken the decision to build in movement time between period 1 and 2 and period 4 and 5.

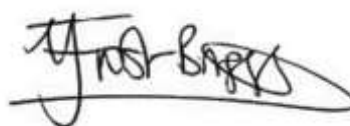
We are hopeful this will allow for calm and purposeful movement between lessons and ensure all students are able to arrive at their lesson on time. We are also hopeful this will give further opportunities for students to visit the toilet to be able to maximise the full hour of precious learning time. To ensure the length of the school day is not increased, which we appreciate would have a ramification for parents and carers, we will be taking the opportunity to shorten lunchtime by 10 minutes. It is currently 50 minutes long, which is considerably longer than most secondary schools and we are confident that the reduction in time over lunch will produce positive outcomes for students without having any significant bearing on their ability to eat or enjoy their lunchtime. The new timings of the school day will begin from Monday 15 January.

8:40am	Line up
8:45-9:00am	Tutor time
9:00-9:05am	Movement time
9:05-10:05am	Period 1
10:05-10:10am	Movement time
10:10-11:10am	Period 2
11:10-11:35am	Break
11:35-12:35pm	Period 3
12:35-1:15pm	Lunch
1:15-2:15pm	Period 4
2:15-2:20pm	Movement time
2:20-3:20pm	Period 5
3:20pm	END OF SCHOOL DAY

Thank you for your continued support.



Mrs L Hilton
Head of School



Mrs H Frost-Briggs
Executive Head Teacher