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27<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

### Change to Configuration of the School Day

During the last year we have undertaken a process with all pupils, staff and the Parent Council to establish what our "Core Values" are at Mintlaw Academy.

The outcome of which was that we agreed to the following values

- Achievement
- Success
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Motivation
- Opportunity

It is also clear that young people in 2015 and beyond need to develop skills as well as qualifications to prepare them for a rapidly changing and challenging world.

The school curriculum designed for Mintlaw Academy in the 1980s really does not meet the needs of our core values or the demands placed on school leavers in 2015. We need to look at how we can introduce a broader range of qualifications and time to develop "life & employability" skills at school.

Currently the structure of the school timetable is based on 40 x 40 minute periods for which almost all lessons are 80 minutes, which effectively means that there are actually 20 x 80 minute periods in a week, a 4 period day!

This is very restrictive and limits our ability to build in a wide range of subjects and skills based courses relevant for life and work today.

To achieve a much broader ranging curriculum a structure of 32 X 50 minute periods meet the needs of our learners much better and our new school timetable will look like this.

Day	Registration	Period 1	Period 2	Interval	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Lunch	Period 6	Period 7
<b>Monday</b>	8.40 - 8.50	8.50- 9.40	9.40- 10.30	10.30 - 10.45	10.45- 11.35	11.35- 12.25	12.25- 1.15	1.15- 2.10	2.10- 3.00	3.00- 3.50
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.40 - 8.50	8.50- 9.40	9.40- 10.30	10.30 - 10.45	10.45- 11.35	11.35- 12.25	12.25- 1.15	1.15- 2.10	2.10- 3.00	3.00- 3.50
	Registration	Period 1	Period 2	Interval	Period 3	Period 4	Lunch	Period 5	Period 6	
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.40 - 8.50	8.50- 9.40	9.40- 10.30	10.30 - 10.45	10.45- 11.35	11.35- 12.25	12.25- 1.20	1.20- 2.10	2.10-3.00	
<b>Thursday</b>	8.40 - 8.50	8.50- 9.40	9.40- 10.30	10.30 - 10.45	10.45- 11.35	11.35- 12.25	12.25- 1.20	1.20- 2.10	2.10-3.00	
<b>Friday</b>	8.40- 8.50	8.50- 9.40	9.40- 10.30	10.30 - 10.45	10.45- 11.35	11.35- 12.25	12.25- 1.20	1.20- 2.10	2.10-3.00	

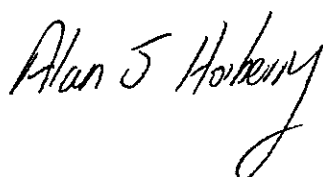
For some "Higher" courses the option of having a single 100 minute block of learning will also raise attainment as well as enabling us to have 50 minute single periods of learning in S1-S3.

These new timings will take effect from August, after the summer holiday.

I trust you will agree that these changes will meet the needs of our young people by both providing them with better, more wide ranging qualifications and increased attainment.

Should you wish to discuss these changes with me I would be delighted to do so and may I remind you that the Headteacher Surgery takes place every Tuesday from 4-6pm or alternatively please feel free to contact me at the school.

Kind regards,



Alan Horberry  
Headteacher  
Mintlaw Academy