

10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, during the last academic year the academy introduced staggered break and lunch times for all students. This was to facilitate and support the “bubble” system and to ensure that students in different year groups remained separate during these times.

Since the full return to school this September, we initially trialled a different staggered system, with KS3 and KS4/5 students having separate break and lunch times. This has been monitored since our return.

However, it has become apparent that this system is neither ideal nor sustainable for the following reasons:

- During each break and lunch period, there are students around the corridors and outside enjoying their free-time (as they should). Unfortunately, this disturbs the learning of other students who are still in lessons. Clearly, our first priority must be the provision of high-quality education to all of our students, and it is our belief that this is being hindered by the current system.
- It is our firm belief that all of our students, from Year 7 to Year 13, should be able to integrate and get to know and support each other. This is simply not possible with the current system, and is leading to a “segregation” between the key stages which is something that we do not wish to happen, as we want all of our students to be a part of the “Rivers family”, regardless of their age or year group. Indeed, since our return in September, many students have commented that they wish they could get to know their peers in the other key stages, and, particularly for the older students, that they would like to be able to support those younger than them and pass on their experiences of the academy.

For these reasons, we have decided to pilot a return to a single break and lunch time for all students, commencing on Monday 13th September 2021. The arrangements for this are set out below:

- Break time for all students will be at 11.20 a.m.
- Lunch time for all students will be at 1.50 p.m.
- We will be serving from all three catering outlets; the main canteen, satellite near the main hall and tuckshop at the rear of school between DT & Science. Where the main meal, e.g. roast dinner, cannot be served as a take away, this will be served in the canteen only.
- Students will be able to sit and eat in both the main hall and canteen.

- All students, when not in these specific areas, will be required to be outside, where they will be able to meet and integrate with students from all year groups
- Additional arrangements will be put in place for wet / cold weather.
- Students will not be permitted to eat whilst walking from the catering outlet. They will be required to eat in either the canteen or main hall, or to take their food outside to eat.
- Up to date menus will be added to the website and sent out to parents via e-mail each Friday. These will also be available through mentors. This will enable students to choose what they would like prior to break and lunch and make sure they know what choices are available from each outlet.

In addition to the above measures, we will be introducing a “Breakfast club” starting on Monday 13th September at 8.15 a.m. Entry will be through the canteen doors, not the main blue doors, students will be expected to remain in the canteen, the same rules will apply regarding consuming food in the area and not in corridors. There will be a selection of cereals, fruit, yogurt & pastries available. You may consider increasing your child’s daily spend limit if they wish to use this service. The current daily limit is set at a default £4.50 for every student. Please contact finance@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk if you would like this changed. Please ensure you include your child’s name and the amount you would like to set the limit at.

I hope that you will understand the reasons for this change. During this pilot period, the entire Senior Leadership Team will be monitoring specific areas, so please be assured that we will review these arrangements in a few weeks’ time and, as always, welcome your feedback and comments. If you would like to provide feedback on these new arrangements, please email: speterson@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support as we navigate together through these ever-changing and uncertain times.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jo Williams
Principal