



Midhurst Rother College

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10 February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Change to school day: September 2025

I am writing to update you all, following the consultation process into a proposed change to the school day at MRC. I am grateful to the parents and carers who responded and gave their views.

Following the consultation period, I confirm that the school day will change from September 2025. The school day will start at the same time as now and will finish at 3.05pm, Monday to Friday. In order to maintain a broad curriculum in Key Stage 3 in particular, we will deliver 6 lessons per day, each of which will be 50 minutes long.

Parents and carers did raise some issues and concerns about the proposal, most of which were related to transport home after school. Queries were raised about times buses will leave, access to after school clubs and the earlier finish we currently have on Fridays. Some parents also raised the issue of access to extra-curricular activities for all students, especially for disadvantaged students. I will address the resolution to each of these points below to provide reassurance to parents / carers and students.

Transport home after school

We have been in contact with local bus companies about the change to the school day. All Local Authority (LA) buses will leave shortly after the end of the school day, as they do now. Most LA buses leave school between 3.50 - 4.00pm. With the new school day, these buses will leave between 3.15 - 3.25pm each day.

Many students travel to us on non-Local Authority buses (Stagecoach, for example). These bus companies are working on their timetables for September. They are not yet published, but they will be in line with the timings of the new school day, allowing students to travel home after school.

Extra-curricular activities

These will run on three days per week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.05 – 3.55pm. Mr Hancock will coordinate this and will produce a half-termly booklet / QR code for students to choose activities from. These will be sent to all parents / carers in the summer term for September.

Late buses

We will operate late buses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for students who wish to stay in school for extra-curricular activities. Students will not be charged to travel on these buses, which enables access to clubs for all students, irrespective of family finances. This will be available for students who currently travel to school on the Local Authority buses.

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Maintaining early finish

It is not possible to maintain the earlier finish on Fridays within the school day. The school will finish at the same time every day, at 3.05pm.

I would like to thank all parents / carers for raising queries with me. We will provide more information about bus times and extra-curricular activities as soon as we are able to.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Edwards', with a small flourish at the end.

Stuart Edwards
Principal