

CURRENT S4/S5 – NEW S5 & S6 STUDENTS

In our letter dated Friday 24 April, we outlined that we would be moving our pupils onto the next phase of learning on **Wednesday 6 May**. I can now provide you with full details as to how this will operate. We are all aware it is important to keep our pupils progressing in their learning. For our S4 & S5 pupils this is a very important change – moving into their next phase of qualifications.

Our format for this change is different to our normal school day – thank you for feedback around this. We will now be using longer blocks of time as opposed to shorter 50 minute periods to allow for the opportunity for more meaningful engagement to take place and to slow down the pace of a day for everyone.

Summary of Changes

- All our current S4 & S5 pupils will move into S5 & S6 on **Wednesday 6 May**.
- They will have 4 longer blocks of learning a day Monday – Thursday; On a Friday only the first 2 blocks up until 12.00 would be used.

Block 1	8.45 – 10.15
Break	10.15 – 10.30
Block 2	10.30 – 12.00
Block 3	12.00 – 1.30
Lunch	1.30 – 2.10
Block 4	2.10 – 3.40

- Pupils have been added to new Teams ready to start on 6 May.
- They should have had a notification about this already and the new TEAM should be in their folder of TEAMS.
- Each Team has been named with the column choice at the end – eg 20-21 Higher Art D. This means pupils who study Higher Art in column D would go to Art class every time D appears on the new TT. You will know if you are in Column D because it will say it at the end of the TEAM name you have been added to.
- For Science – Pupils need to go to the science TEAM they've been added to and check the class (channel) list within each TEAM to see which column to follow (this makes sense when you read this with the TEAMS next to you).
- Pupils will have 3 blocks of each subject per week as well as 2 blocks to support the completion of core senior phase SCQF qualifications such as personal development. To access Personal development **ALL new S5** pupils should use this code and join the TEAM using CODE: **tc2t38x**.
- S5 & S6 pupils will follow the timetable below.
- *Please note:* Advanced Higher Spanish and French which will be taught via Edinburgh College have been added to a Team but do not feature in the timetable below. Your learning tasks will be posted weekly and you can post questions for your teachers.
- *Please note:* PSE teachers will continue to use the Teams in existence.

	Block 1	Break	Block 2	Block 3	Lunch	Block 4
	8.45 - 10.15	10.15 - 10.30	10.30 - 12.00	12.00 - 1.30	1.30 - 2.10	2.10 - 3.40
Monday						
National	A		C	B		D
Higher/AH	A		C	B		D
Tuesday						
National	F		A	C		E
Higher/AH	PD package		A	C		E
Wednesday						
National	E		F	D		C
Higher/AH	E		PSE	D		C
Thursday						
National	D		B	F		A
Higher/AH	D		B	PD package		A
Friday						
National	E		B			
Higher/AH	E		B			

Pupils Working from Home

Whilst we will actively encourage all our pupils to participate during the blocks of learning times; as this is when our teachers are available – we do understand for some of our pupils this may not always be possible. Materials will be available on each class Team for pupils to access out with the block of learning time.

Course Choice Queries

We actively encourage all our pupils to stand by their course choice decisions. However we do realise in limited circumstances an issue may arise. Please contact Miss McTiernan at clare.mctiernan@westlothian.org.uk if you have any queries. We cannot guarantee spaces will exist in all classes and therefore a change can be made. Students should not ask teachers directly to join their class – all request must come via the email address above. In addition; any pupil who has still to make a course choice should contact Miss McTiernan directly.

Timetable Requests: For pupils who made specific timetable requests who wished to study a subject we currently do not offer in school; Miss McTiernan will continue to find solutions by liaising with other West Lothian Schools and seeking online learning opportunities. These courses **will not** be running by 6 May. Miss McTiernan will contact you directly if and when a solution can be found. We cannot always guarantee there is a workable solution but we will always try our best to accommodate pupil choice.

We cannot guarantee all courses offered at present will run once we return to school. We will keep you updated should this be the case.

It is also worth noting once results are posted on 4 August there will be the opportunity for pupils to alter their course choice at this point.

Leavers

For our pupils who intend to leave us at the end of S4 or S5 and pursue a positive post school destination we wish you well. Please ensure your House Head has details with regard to your decisions.

To support our S4 & S5 leavers during this time we are highlighting to them the opportunity to study courses which will help prepare them for their future and allow them to enhance their CV during the current period. Free online courses through [Future Learn](#) and [Eton X](#) provide a range of short courses that are focused on future skills. In addition for pupils who wish to move into employment using [My World of Work](#) or [Barclays Life Skills](#) will be particularly useful in preparing for the world of work and life skills more generally.

Many thanks and continue to stay safe.

P Gallagher
Head Teacher