

Curriculum Consultation Response

Feedback

Thank you to all parent(s)/carer(s) who responded to the consultation document. We had 39 responses in total in the following categories:

Category	Number	Percentage
Positive or no comments	55	86
Further questions	5	8
Comments indicating disagreement with the changes	4	6
Total	64	100

Responses to the individual questions raised are shown below. These are not representative of all of the replies from parents, as only a few questions were asked but we felt it important to provide everyone with the questions, comments and answers in order to make this a transparent process. A couple of questions from different parents so I have combined them into one response.

Further questions/comments raised

Qn: Why is there less PE and art in year 9?

Year 9 is now part of key stage three and so students will have a broader curriculum, as in years 7 and 8. Fitting in more subjects means that some may have a slightly reduced time than in current year 9. However, it also means that all students will continue to study/experience these subjects in year 9 where they may not have been able to before. PE and art will also feature in our enrichment options and so students will have the opportunity to have more time with these if they choose to.

Qn: Why have the start and end times changed – could the start time stay the same?

In the previous consultation, and from parental feedback, there was a lot of support for having consistent timings to the end of the day. Some families and students have also found the early start difficult. We appreciate that every family has their own routines but feel that delaying the start time by 10 minutes will not have a significantly negative impact on routines but will help those who need a little extra time in busy mornings.

Qn: For sixth form lessons, will the content of six lessons fit into 5?

Although the number of lessons has changed, the time for each lesson has increased by five minutes. Sixth form students will have five taught lessons with a teacher and one directed lesson from a reading list; this is in addition to their independent study time. Altogether this compulsory element is longer than present. Again, teachers are confident that they will be able to deliver their courses into the allocated time.

Qn: Concerned that PSHE and Philosophy and Ethics have become a choice in Years 10 and 11.

These two lessons are not a choice and are still part of our compulsory curriculum for all years 7 - 11. Sixth form students also have compulsory PSHCE. PSHCE and the Religious Education element of Philosophy and Ethics are both statutory subjects. They provide important knowledge and a deeper understanding of current issues and the wider world. Therefore, we are continuing with both but are

using some of our enrichment time to deliver them in. This also helps to ensure that we don't impact negatively on the time allocated for other GCSE subjects.

Qn: Is triple science going to fit into less lesson time?

We are restructuring the curriculum in all subjects to ensure that the core knowledge needed is focused on and fits into the new timings. All new GCSE courses have an increased amount of content and all schools have had to plan for this using similar timings to our proposed model. As mentioned in the consultation document, our timings are part of a trust-wide model which many of our trust schools have at the moment. They currently deliver all courses in this allocated time. The new knowledge-led curriculum encourages all students to memorise the key knowledge they need as they go along. At NFS, this is reinforced with our compulsory study and use of knowledge organisers which is not part of the core provision in other schools.

Qn: How will the wider curriculum/enrichment work? How does it work with computer science and music?

Our enrichment curriculum will still include a wide variety of activities – students in years 7 & 8 will have six different activities each year, one will be computer science and one will be instrumental. Year 9 students will also study computer science during this time for one term. This is sufficient time to cover the computing national curriculum for key stage three and enables us to continue to keep this as a separate subject. We will be streamlining our enrichment package to ensure that all students have a breadth of experience and activities.

Qn: I think the lunch B is too late.

We currently have two lunch periods as we cannot serve the entire school in one lesson. The new timings of the second lunch are actually earlier than the current times and we do not have any issues currently. Students also have a 15 minute break in the morning so nobody has to wait until lunch to have food and a rest from lessons.

Actions and Next Steps

The proposed timetable and curriculum changes will be planned for and implemented in September 2020. Students in year 9 in next academic year will have options information at the start of the Spring term.