



NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

22nd June 2017

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

I am writing with details of a number of changes here at NUSA that will take place this term and in September:

Mobile telephones and electronic music devices from next week

What is changing? We understand that for reasons of safety, many of our pupils bring a mobile phone to school with them. However, from Monday 26th June we will be insisting that during the school day, mobile phones are either switched off or on a silent setting and remain out of sight.

Why are we making these changes? Recent educational research suggests that banning mobile phones in schools helps pupils to focus on their work, and improves their communication skills. Interactions between pupils and their peers have been shown to improve, as have those between pupils and staff. The number of arguments and incidents of bullying have also been shown to decrease, as the influence of social media is reduced.

What will happen if a pupil fails to comply with these new rules? If a pupil is seen using a mobile phone or electronic music device, or if it disturbs a lesson in any way, it will be confiscated and the pupil will be issued with a 15-minute after-school detention the following day. If pupils comply with the confiscation, on the first occasion we will hand the phone or device back at the end of the same school day. However, if a pupil persists in using a mobile phone or electronic music device, it will be confiscated and we will ask a parent or another nominated adult to collect it from school. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any liability for confiscated items.

NUSA's school day from September 2017

What is changing? We currently have a seven-period teaching day, and separate break times and lunch times for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils. From September, we intend to simplify our school day by having just one break time and one lunch time. We anticipate that this change will necessitate an extension to the school day of 5 minutes, to allow for a slightly longer lunch period.

In addition to this, our school timetable on Thursdays will only have six lessons, instead of seven.

Please turn over...

Our proposed new school week for September 2017 will therefore look like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First bell	08:40	08:40	08:40	08:40	08:40
Finish	15:20	15:20	15:20	14:35	15:20
<i>Afterschool</i>	<i>Homework Support & Afterschool Clubs</i>				

Why are we making these changes? NUSA has changed dramatically since our current school day and week were established. The single break and lunch times will have a positive impact on lessons, and they will allow us to increase the range of activities and opportunities for pupils during the school day. On Thursdays, all staff will remain in school for training and development activities, which will help us to continue to improve as a school. We will also organise all of our staff meetings and parents' evenings on Thursdays, leaving the other afternoons free for homework support and afterschool clubs.

Does this mean NUSA's school week will be shorter than other schools? No.

Traditionally, schools provide 25 hours of lesson time for pupils per week. Even with one fewer lesson, NUSA pupils will still receive 25 ½ hours of teaching per week.

What if I would prefer my child to remain in school until 15:20 on Thursdays? We will be offering supervised homework support to all those pupils preferring to remain in school to complete their homework.

What if I have questions or comments about these proposed changes? We always try to work with parents and carers with the ultimate aim of providing the very best standard of education we can. If these proposals cause you concern in anyway, please can I ask that you contact your child's Assistant Head of Year in the first instance. We will record and collate everyone's comments, and then work with you to find solutions to any outstanding concerns.

NUSA Telephone Number: 0115 929 1492

Assistant Heads of Year

Year 10: Miss Fletcher
Year 9: Mr Snow
Year 8: Miss Dabbs
Year 7: Miss Green

If your child's Assistant Head of Year is not available when you call, our reception staff will take your contact number and ask you for a convenient time to call you back.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Watts
Head of School