

Curriculum structure/format of the school day (for June 2016)**BACKGROUND**

As we roll out the principles and curricular requirements of CfE, our current school day structure does not allow us to accommodate all of the pupil entitlements/Scottish Government requirements. Through last year, curriculum planning was underway looking at ways to address the issues. The new Seemis format and the current bus contract both hindered progress.

* Seemis - require a lead time to alter school day timings

* Bus contract - is part of wider HC contracts and not up for renewal until January 2017. This was the biggest restriction to us and indeed many other Secondary schools.

There has been discussion across all Secondary schools about school day structures to accommodate all curricular requirements. Currently there are variations on 30, 31, 32 and 33 periods/week. Some school models currently operate an asymmetric week and some have 4½ day week. HC were also considering a 4½ day week for all Secondary schools to enable more efficient timetabling across schools potentially to maximise timetable options. This is still the intended plan once transport issues are addressed in the new contract. Several schools already operate the 4½ day week model i.e. Grantown, Alness, Dingwall and Inverness High. ***Important to note – the school day/teaching time remains the same across the week i.e. there is no reduction in teaching/class contact time in a 4 ½ day week.***

Curricular requirements to be addressed for Nairn Academy

x 2 periods PE for S4 per week
x 1 period S4 PSE
x 1 period S3 Personal Support
vocational pathways/college links

For Nairn Academy the curriculum plan was a key area discussed during our recent HMIE inspection. Where on one hand HMIE accept that schools vary in their stages of implementation, it is an expectation that we are move to address the curricular gaps for next session (2016/2017).

Recent developments

Secondary schools were given the opportunity to submit their proposals for a 4½ day week structure in order that transport requirements could be costed for this coming session.

SMT (Julie and Jo) met at HQ with Brian Porter and transport link staff at the beginning of January to look at options. These were noted and put to the transport providers to cost/consider implications. Several other Secondary schools went through this process as well. We received notification last week that we can proceed as buses can accommodate the change. It also fits

in with our ASG Primary schools (Cawdor + Auldearn plan to have the same school day timings as Rosebank + Millbank).

Next Steps

The timing of the decision on transport will mean a very tight period for information sharing, feedback and planning to include:

Staff (teaching and support)

Parents* (Parent Council and wider group)

Pupils

Partners (HLH, Active Schools, YDO, Eden Court.....)

Cleaners

Catering

ASG

Lets (office to contact current let holders to update/advise)

Buses

Please find attached proposed school day timings (3 options).

Please consider/note the following:

- Registration slot back to first thing. Feedback from staff indicated that mid-morning is not working. Guidance and Office staff would certainly support first thing for registration to enable a more accurate register for attendance records.
- With 7 period days, how are these split?
2,2,3 (option A)
3,2,2 (option B)
2,3,2,(option C)
- With a 12.30 finish on a Friday, there could be the option of CAT sessions moving to a Friday. Thoughts welcome on this please.
- As college remains a Friday, we will aim to minimise disruption to classes Monday – Thursday by timetabling them to a Friday for college/work experience options.
- Other activities could be incorporated into this time – Youth Development, Active Schools, Eden Court drama, DofE, Rock Challenge, Youth Forum....

*School newsletter to be issued on Wednesday 3 Feb 2016 with details of the plan

*Q&A session is proposed for parents – Monday 8 February 2016 at 6.30pm