



24 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Length of the School Week

The Department for Education requires that all schools implement a school week of at least 32 hours and 30 minutes from September 2024. Currently, The Bourne Academy offers a taught week of 32 hours and 5 minutes at KS3. Therefore, we will need to increase the school week by a minimum of 25 minutes for KS3 students. This change will only impact our current Year 7 students when they go into Year 8. There are no changes at KS4.

We are using this as an opportunity to enhance the quality of our education offer, particularly around Literacy and Reading. Education research points to recreational reading expanding students' knowledge about the world and about language, as well as their understanding of subject-specific academic and technical vocabulary. Such knowledge eases their access to the whole curriculum. Interestingly, higher performance in mathematics has also been found. This additional half an hour will allow time to independently read and builds on our core strategies to encourage sustained, voluntary reading, which includes teachers reading aloud regularly in tutor time. If you are interested in exploring this research further then the Department for Education – Reading Framework can be accessed [here](#).

We have spent a considerable amount of time looking at other successful schools to understand what alternative models might work best. This has led us to a preferred model that I am now sharing with you. I have outlined the week below (with highlighted change) and included some frequently asked questions (FAQs) that you may want to ask, along with answers to help explain the rationale for the proposal below.

Day	Timings
Mon	08:30-16:00 (6 x periods)
Tues	08:30-15:00 (5 x periods)
Weds	08:30-13:35 (4 x periods)
Thurs	KS3 (Yr7 & 8): 08:30-15:30 (6 x periods – 1 x 30 min session) KS4 (Yr9,10 & 11) :08:30-16:00 (6 x periods)
Fri	08:30-15:00 (5 x periods)
Total Hours	KS3: 32 hours 35 mins KS4: 33 hours 5 mins

Principal: Mr M Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH10 5HS

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I am confident that you will appreciate the additional support that your child will benefit from. I also recognise that some of you may wish to share your views with me about this. You can do this via the online form that can be found here <https://forms.gle/7m5aS2fQCzneDBtr6>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Avoth
Principal

FAQs

Will there be any changes for students in Year 9,10,11 and Sixth Form?

No

Why has break time not increased?

The intention of the 32.5 hours minimum is to support additional curriculum time.

What will happen within the additional 30 minute lesson on Thursdays?

Our intention is to support Reading development for all readers. Further information as to the exact programme will be sent to parents/carers during the Summer Term.

Why not extend Wednesdays to 2.00pm?

Wednesdays are used to support Staff training and development, Parent Consultations and Open Evenings and extending this time will have a wider impact on the delivery of these events.

Will students be able to remain on site after 3.30pm on Thursday?

Yes. Homework club will still run. This will support any families who pick up older students.

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