



Executive Headteacher Mr A. McClusky MA NPQH

Head of Boys' School Mrs D. Lebrecht MA NPQH Menahel Rabbi J. Golker LLB Head of Girls' School Mrs K. Brice MA

Dear Parents,

**Re: Hasmonean High School for Girls**

I am writing to you to propose two changes to the school day next year which are beneficial to the school and will save costs.

1. We are proposing that the Girls' School day will begin at 8.40am (ten minutes earlier than is currently the case) which is the same time that the boys currently start their day.

The major reason for this is that it that we wish to improve our pastoral system. We would like to create a tutor system that involves as many staff as possible in which dedicated tutor time is set aside at the beginning and end of the school day. We also wish to allow more flexibility in regard to the davening arrangements.

The benefits of an 8.40am start at the Girls' School are as follows:

- The day would begin with a 15-minute form time which would include davening, and it would end with 15 minutes of tutor time. This would enable each child to check in with her tutor at two points in the day to discuss any concerns and to enable the tutors to keep a watchful eye over their students to prevent minor issues from escalating.
- The davening time that is currently spent in the hall will be dedicated to a variety of Jewish Studies activities throughout the day to engage and inspire students.
- For girls who wish to daven for longer, there would be voluntary davening from 8.15am (we hope in time at the Girls' School to emulate the success of the voluntary shacharis programme at the Boys' School via an incentive based system)
- On Fridays, girls would daven together in the hall, as they do currently.
- There would be whole school assemblies on key dates throughout the year with inspirational guest speakers invited to speak. A programme will be drawn up in the second half of the summer term.
- The new tutoring arrangements would give Sixth Formers the opportunity to act as form prefects and develop a strong bond with their forms.
- This change will also reduce the need for period 8 lessons at the end of the school day.

Mincha would be included in form time at the end of the school day.

2. We are proposing that for students from September 2019, school will end all year round on Friday afternoons by 1.05pm at the latest.

Currently, from mid-March to mid-October (depending on when the Jewish holidays fall) provision for students on Friday afternoons is as follows:

- Year 7-9 have a variety of activities which include guest speakers, a JS programme and sports activities
- Year 10 have the above activities until May when they have extra English lessons
- Year 11 have extra English lessons
- Year 12/13 have private study time either at home or in school.

We wish to implement these changes for the following reasons:

- Lower income from the government (which has been imposed on all schools) means that schools are having to implement cost saving measures. Closing the school early on Friday afternoons year round will enable us to make savings that would otherwise have to be found by reducing the number of curriculum subjects that we offer (or by taking other steps that might negatively impact on other aspects of provision).
- The school day at Hasmonean is already longer than at many other schools. From September 2019, teachers are being asked to teach heavier timetables and larger class sizes to create savings. A shorter Friday may mitigate some of these extra pressures and help to improve recruitment and retention.
- The proposal will enable departments to focus on strategic priorities and/or enable staff to engage in continuing professional development activities on some of those Friday afternoons.
- Year 10/11 would then have their extra English lessons integrated into the school week to ensure they would not lose out on this extra time.

We would love to hear from you with any comments you have on this proposal and please do so by emailing [consultation@hasmonean.co.uk](mailto:consultation@hasmonean.co.uk) by Thursday 13th June.

The outcome of the consultation will be communicated to all parents once the consultation period has closed.

With kind regards,

**Mr A McClusky**  
**CEO - Hasmonean Multi-Academy Trust**