

16 June 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

The philosophy at Neston has always been to educate the whole person, beyond just their academic studies and to prepare every young person to navigate life in an ever-changing world. Over the past 12 months, the Senior Leadership Team alongside our Trustees, staff and students have been working together to evolve the school's vision and values, developing a brand that truly reflects the opportunities that we are passionate about making available to our whole school community.

## Our Vision and Mission from September 2022

**Our Vision** for Neston High School is to **Shape Extraordinary Lives**. Our vision is our North Star, the guiding light that can always be depended upon, as the world around us changes, the image of a star is a new addition to our school logo.

**Our Mission** is to give all members of our school community the opportunities Explore, Dream, Discover. To **Explore** and gain knowledge; to **Dream** and aspire to achieve their personal best; and to **Discover** a lifelong passion for learning. It is the contribution we make to the world to achieve our vision to **Shape Extraordinary Lives**.

**Our Values: Aspiration, Community and Kindness** are our guiding principles, the golden threads that shape every aspect of our school and the way we communicate with the world.

Our school badge/logo and branding have been updated to reflect the school's vision. Since its founding over 60 years ago, Neston High School's logo has evolved many times. The Viking ship remains an important part of our badge as it symbolises our history. The Viking ship that we use today is contemporary, representing life at Neston. The updated badge shows the North Star, our guiding light; the wind in the sails moves the ship (Neston High School) forwards and into the future; the five shields on the side of the ship represent the deep roots of the five school houses: Grenfell, Stewart, Talbot, Summers and Overton and the waves depict the ever-changing world that Neston High School helps students to navigate.

From September 2022 the new school badge will be rolled out across our school uniform starting with our new Year 7 students. We have also taken this opportunity to review our PE kit, reducing the number of items that families need to buy and working with our student voice to agree a kit that is affordable, practical, and stylish. We have worked with our uniform suppliers to ensure that they are able to guide you with uniform choices. It is expected that the roll out of the new school badge on blazers and PE kit will take a few years to work its way through. **Please be reassured that there is no expectation that families with older children should go out and buy new blazers or PE kits if their existing uniform still fits.** A reminder of approved school uniform available on the website [Link to uniform information](#)

We will roll out our new branding including an updated website over the summer in preparation for a full launch in September 2022. Further information to follow.

## Changes to the school day – Consultation

Alongside this exciting new vision, the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team have been consulting with colleagues and students on implementing further ways to raise outcomes for all, in line with the Governments Schools White Paper, that requires all schools to review the length of the school day and how they will action to 'level up' education 'for all young people'.

We have listened to feedback from students, parents and staff through surveys and focus groups and have developed a list of proposals to address the individual issues raised. The proposed extension to the length of the school day also addresses the requirement that all schools should be open to all students for a minimum of 32.5 hours per week from September 2023 [Schools White Paper delivers real action to level up education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-white-paper-delivers-real-action-to-level-up-education).

There were five main items that would require some changes to the school day structure:

- **Tutors to spend quality time with their tutees at the start of the day (currently mid-day) to set the tone for the day and support any pastoral issues.**  
*From September 2022 the timetable will be constructed so that tutor time is at 8:40 each day. The doors will open at 8:30am to give students time to get to their tutor base on time.*
- **Lunchtime too short and there is a limited range of food on offer**  
*Proposal – From September 2022 the lunchtime to be extended from 30 minutes to 40 minutes each day, enabling students to have a more relaxed dining experience. New school menus to be developed for September 2022. This will also provide an opportunity for additional clubs to run.*
- **Lesson changeover time not included in the timetable, resulting in one-hour timetabled lessons being cut short.**  
*Proposal - 5 minutes travel time to be built into the timetable between lessons to support lessons to start promptly and ensure a full hour of quality teaching and learning.*
- **Introduction of the Government White Paper that states Schools should be open to all for a minimum of 32.5 per week**  
*School Day extended to 3:15pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday*
- **Regular staff training/development to be programmed throughout the year**  
*Proposal to provide dedicated professional development time for staff each Wednesday between 2:15 pm and 4pm each week. The official school day would finish at 2:15pm on Wednesday with an offer of enrichment activities for students between 2:15 and 3:15pm. This programme of opportunities will be led by a professional external company working alongside the school to further develop character and whole child development for example through creativity of sport, music, arts, technology plus bespoke interventions for selected students around curriculum areas. These sessions will be provided without charge although in time we are likely to offer some paid options as has been the case in the past. This will be designed in conjunction with student voice and our potential programme provider. School Buses will leave at 2:15pm on Wednesdays.*

**Proposal for consideration – to start September 2022**

8:30am	Students arrive at school
8:40am	Tutor Time (15 minutes)
3:15pm	End of the school Day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) <b>(15 minutes later than current) - school buses will leave at this point</b>
3:15-4:15pm	Extra-Curricular activities – led by school staff (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
2:15pm	End of timetabled lessons <b>(Wednesday) - school buses will leave at the point</b>
2:15-3:15pm	Enrichment activities <b>(Wednesday)</b> - variety of enrichment activities including sport, team building activities, wellbeing activities (optional)

At this point in time, we are only consulting on the proposed changes to the timings of the school day and would welcome your feedback. Please follow this link to add your [Comments/Feedback/Questions](#)  
The survey will close at **9am on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

### **Term Dates 2022 – 2023**

Please be aware that full term dates for 2022 – 2023, including INSET information, are available on the school website. [Term Dates](#)

Kind regards

K Simpson  
Headteacher