



**Okehampton Community College**  
**Timings of the school day - June 2023**

Thank you to everyone who gave feedback on the proposed changes to the school day at Okehampton College from September 2023. We have analysed the feedback and now wish to respond to some of common questions raised.

We feel that the proposed changes will be highly beneficial to students at the College. Below is a summary of the commonly asked questions from students, parents, and carers.

<b>School Day 2023/24</b>	
<b>Session</b>	<b>Time</b>
First bell – students move to Tutor time	8.35am
Tutor Time	8.40 to 9.00
Period 1	9.00 to 10.00
<i>Transition/movement</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
Period 2	10.05 to 11.05
BREAK 1	11.05 to 11.35
Period 3	11.35 to 12.35
<i>Transition/movement</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
Period 4	12.40 to 13.40
BREAK 2:	13.40 to 14.10
Period 5	14.10 to 15.10
End of School Day	15.10
Afterschool clubs/activities	15.30-16.30

**Frequently Asked Questions UPDATED JUNE 2023**

***Will not having the afternoon second tutor time disadvantaged students who like having a second chance to speak with their tutor?***

Students will still be able to access support from pastoral staff during Break 1 and Break 2. In an emergency support can be given during Period 5.

***Do two thirty-minute breaks allow enough time for students to access the canteens and have lunch?***

This model has been in place this year and worked well. We monitor the queue times closely and with having three venues, rarely does the queue last longer than 12-14 minutes.

***Do two thirty-minute breaks allow enough time for students to access clubs?***

We have offered a range of break time clubs this year which has worked well. We want to hear more from students about what they would like to see offered during this time. This also goes for after school clubs. We are committed to running late buses on two evenings a week; however this has not been used as much as we would like it to be.

**Where has the ten minutes from the end of the day been used?**

We have not changed the two thirty-minute breaks as this has been in place already this year. Student and Staff Voice work has not suggested this has not worked. The school day is starting five minutes earlier, so we are only losing five minutes overall. This has gone into a longer morning tutor time and the transition slots across the day.

**Is Break 1 too late in the morning for students to access food?**

Break 1 is only going to be five minutes later than the current model. Our canteen is open in the morning to students who wish to have breakfast at school.

**Is there enough time in tutor time to achieve everything that you want to achieve?**

Overall, there is a reduction in tutor time. Another change at the college for next school year (2023-24) is that there will be Personal Development lessons in every student's timetable. This will allow important work around every student's personal development that happens in lessons and therefore won't be needed to take place in tutor time. Student and Staff Voice work this year has clearly said that personal development work during tutor times has been challenging and not achieving what we want it to achieve. Tutors next year will have more time to work with their group and support them pastorally.

**How will you support vulnerable students in adapting to this change?**

The tutor is the person that should know their tutor group the best. With more time in Tutor time to develop these relationships rather than delivering content, they will be able to understand the individual needs and put support in where necessary. There is of course a huge number of staff across the school to also help with this.

**Are these changes motivated by reducing cost?**

Not at all. There is no financial benefit to the college based on this change. This is completely motivated on the lived experience for students at the college and what we have learnt this year. It is not the intention to change the timings of the school day on a regular basis, however, based on what we have seen this year and on what staff and students have told us, we feel this change is in the best interests of students.

**Will the tutor time reading stop.**

No. We will continue to run the reading session during the morning tutor time as this has been a real success across the school.

**When would assemblies take place?**

Assemblies would take place in the morning Tutor time.

**Will students have enough time to eat lunch in the break times?**

*Our break time food service is almost always finished within 15 minutes of the beginning of each break. The proposed changes mean that the current 30-minute breaks will continue, students will easily be able to eat their lunch and take the time to rest and prepare for the rest of the day.*

**What about the clubs that take place during breaks, will these be dropped?**

We hope that all the clubs and activities which currently take place during a break time will be able to continue. We will be working with those who organise, clubs to help them and students to continue to manage this. In addition, the proposed changes will allow us to encourage more students to take part in a broader range of activities.

**Will the bus and taxi times change to accommodate the changes to the school day?**

Devon Council is being consulted on these changes and they will provide their feedback on how they will accommodate the new start/end times to the school day. It is our expectation that the contracts with transport providers will be altered so that all students will arrive 5 minutes earlier in the morning and have left the site within 10 minutes of the end of the new school day.

**Will there be the opportunity for students to remain after school to take advantage of the enrichment program and will there be a late bus?**

Yes, all students from all years will be able to stay at school and take advantage of a broader enrichment offer. We will also ensure that any program is supported by the late bus service that we currently offer.

**Will students be asked about these changes?**

Yes, the School Council will be consulted alongside Year Councils and Tutor Reps. This consultation asks all members of the school community, including students, for their views on the complete proposals.