

Thursday 18th December 2025

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

In July, you shared clear and thoughtful feedback through the timetable survey. I have reflected on this alongside my experience as Headteacher and we have now decided to move from a four-period day to a five-period day starting in January 2026. This decision puts your child first.

A four-lesson structure limits the school day. It narrows curriculum design, reduces flexibility and increases movement between sites. Long lessons demand extended concentration and over time, this affects focus, learning, behaviour and wellbeing.

Safeguarding sits at the centre of this change. A five-period day reduces unnecessary movement between our two sites, especially for Years 7 to 9. Too many children walk on busy roads during the school day, often unaware of traffic around them. Reducing movement reduces risk and students remain more settled, better supervised, and safer.

In addition, learning strengthens as a result of this change. More frequent lessons support regular recap and spaced learning enabling teachers to revisit key knowledge more often. Students build stronger understanding and the shorter lessons improve focus and pace. Less travel time between our sites means more purposeful learning.

Educational research supports lessons of around 50 minutes to one hour as most effective meaning our new lesson times reflect an inclusive learning approach that meets the needs of a wider range of students.

At Key Stage 3, this structure supports a broader and more balanced curriculum. Subjects gain appropriate time, curriculum breadth improves and consistency strengthens across the school.

Your son or daughter will receive a copy of their new timetable before the end of term. We have protected examination groups, including Year 11 and Sixth Form students and they will remain with their current class groupings as they approach public examinations. This stability supports focus, confidence, and wellbeing.

Governors have agreed an additional **INSET day** on **Wednesday 7th January 2026** and school will be closed to students on that day. This gives staff dedicated time to prepare fully for the launch of the new timetable and secure a strong and consistent start.

When students return on **Thursday 8th January 2026**, we will build structured preparation time into the school day. Tutors and staff will guide students through their timetables, explain expectations, and answer questions to reassure them.

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There will be some short-term changes to form time arrangements while Year 11 and Year 13 prepare for public examinations. Your child's form group will remain the same, however at times, students may be registered by a different teacher. Every child will continue to have a trusted adult assigned to them and we will aim to return to a more stable and consistent provision in Form Time as soon as possible.

Introducing this change now gives us two full terms where Key Stage 3 students benefit from a broader and more balanced curriculum. This supports continuity and long-term learning.

We will also be launching a Student Support Hub at TCHS which responds directly to your survey feedback on communication between school and home. Each year group will have a named contact within the Hub and they will work alongside the Head of Year this strengthening the support triangle between school and home.

We will review the timetable throughout the year but our ambition stays clear – to reduce movement between sites, maintain a strong sense of one school and refine the structure so it serves students well.

I hope this clarifies the reason for the changes we are making and I would like to thank you in advance for your trust and support with our new timetable.

As we approach the Christmas break, I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Christmas. I look forward to working closely with you in 2026 as we continue to drive success at Trinity and secure the best for every young person.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Declan Linnane".

Declan Linnane
Headteacher