

Little Heath School

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Headteacher
D J Ramsden, BA, NPQH

March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that the school is exploring the possibility of reducing our lunchtime from 45 minutes to 35 minutes from September 2026. This would mean that school would also finish ten minutes earlier, at 3.15pm. Before any decision is made, it is essential that we understand whether this would be workable for students and staff, particularly in relation to food service and movement around the site.

To help us test this, we will be running a lunchtime food service trial from Tuesday 17th March to Friday 27th March.

What the trial involves

During the trial period:

- Food service in the Restaurant, Sixth Form café, and Snack Shack will stop ten minutes earlier than usual.
- Students will be asked to finish eating and leave these areas by 1.52pm, which mirrors what lunchtime would look like if the proposed change were introduced in September 2026.
- All other lunchtime routines will remain the same.
- The school day will finish at 3.25pm, as normal.

Why we are considering this change

Reducing lunchtime by ten minutes may offer several advantages, including an earlier finish to the school day, helping improve attendance at after-school intervention sessions and enrichment. There are other benefits that we believe would improve our school.

However, it is equally important that lunchtime remains calm, safe, and enjoyable for students, and that everyone has adequate time to eat.

Your feedback

This trial does not mean a final decision has been made. If the trial indicates that the reduced lunch period is not viable, we will not pursue it further. If it is viable, we will then explore other implications of a shorter lunch break and earlier finish to the school day. Parents and carers are welcome to share any initial thoughts or questions by contacting Mr Coulson, who is leading this piece of work.

We are also discussing the proposal with staff and student groups. We are grateful for student feedback from our recent Student Voice Conference.

Thank you in advance for your support as we explore ways to improve our school day for students and staff.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ramsden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Ramsden
Headteacher, LHS