

A student's day at Consilium Evolve, by Mia Robinson

The school day starts off with registration at 8:40 like most schools, although you do not have to call out "here" or say that you are present. You will be marked as in school as soon as you arrive, which I find helpful as in my old mainstream school I really struggled with speaking aloud. Students who live more than 5 miles away from the school will receive a complementary taxi if they have no other way of getting here.

From 8:40-9:10am we have Fit to Learn which is a relaxed 30 minutes, talking with teachers and other students, sometimes we do mindful colouring in or play kahoot before period one starts, just chilling in the classroom.

Period one starts at 9.10 and each lesson lasts around 55 minutes. We have a range of lessons consisting of: English, Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, DT, ICT, Religious Studies and more. We also have Crew which is a 55-minute lesson 3 times a week to update our reflective journals and chat to our crew lead about the school and life in general.

We then go for our 15-minute morning break. During this break, students usually grab a slice of toast and just relax. We have sofas and bean bags that pupils are free to use alongside a bunch of board games, puzzles, and other activities they have access to during break and lunch. Alongside this, we also have a quiet room students can go if they are feeling anxious or overwhelmed by being around other students/teachers. This being said, we are an incredibly small school with around 40 or so students, unlike in mainstream where you usually will find no less than 1000 children in a school, class sizes are also very small usually at around 15 or so people.

Lunch starts at 12:05 and ends at 12:45. Students can bring in their own packed lunch or they can access Thornhill Secondary School's canteen, although they will have to bring money as it is not free. If this is the case, teachers escort students to the lunch hall which is about a 5 minute walk from our building. Students from Evolve are taken to the lunch hall 10 or so minutes before Thornhill so do not worry, you won't have to be around hundreds of people just to get your dinner

After lunch we have period four, which is from 12:45 till 1:35pm, period five starts at 1:35 and finishes at 2:30pm. For lessons such as DT and the three sciences we also have access to Thornhill's science rooms and, like lunch, students will be escorted by a teacher during a time where Thornhill pupils are in lesson.

Before the school day ends, we have a 15-minute period called RRA which stands for Rest, Restore, Acknowledge, where we acknowledge the achievements of pupils for that day, and announcements are also made about trips, school rules etc.

Compared to my old school, Consilium Evolve is amazing. Before I came here, I had only attended 4 weeks of secondary education and eventually had an attendance of 0%. The smaller class sizes and the support received from staff have really helped me, I now have an attendance of around 91% and am looking forward to starting college next year.