

# the schedule spout

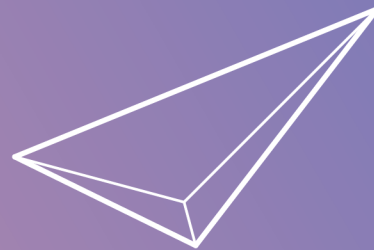
## overall, what do students prefer?

*34.8% strongly prefer the 20-day schedule*  
*17.9% mildly prefer the 20-day schedule*  
*4.7% don't mind*  
*14.2% mildly prefer the 8-day schedule*  
*28.4% strongly prefer the 8-day schedule*



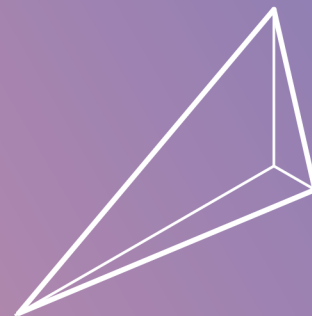
## which one's better for time management?

*55.4% think the 20-day schedule is better*  
*9.1% see no difference*  
*35.5% think the 8-day schedule is better*



## which one's better for learning retention?

*31.4% think the 20-day schedule is better*  
*9.5% see no difference*  
*59.1% think the 8-day schedule is better*



*how to read the graphs:*

the distance of the vertices from the center represents the numerical values of the data

# EDITORIAL: THE PROS AND CONS OF THE 20-DAY AND 8-DAY LEARNING MODELS

KEVIN LIU

EDITOR IN CHIEF

As our school life gets closer and closer to the pre-COVID norm, the 20-day term learning model is now one of the most prominent COVID-induced structural changes to our school that are still remaining in place. Introduced in September 2020, this model divides each student's courses into two 20-day terms with three to four courses in each term.

How effective and preferable is this model as compared to the 8-day cycle learning model previously used at UCC has been a topic of discussion, even contention, among students ever since its implementation. In December 2020, *Convergence* conducted the 2020 Year-In-Review survey, in which we asked a question on whether the 20-day model should be kept after the pandemic. To this question, a slight majority of students answered no (52.4%) at that time.

Since then, UCC students have gained another year of experience with the 20-day model. As reverting back to the 8-day cycle now increasingly becomes a possi-

bility, from November 4 to 9, 2021, *Convergence* conducted a new survey focused on comparing the two learning models.

Unsurprisingly, we received an overwhelming response from the student body - **a total of 296 students responded to the survey**, representing a record level of *Convergence* survey participation. Apparently, UCC students consider themselves as the biggest stakeholder of this important issue, which has also prompted an outpouring of individual opinions. Some 129 insightful and detailed comments were left in our survey, another a record in *Convergence's* survey history.

According to the results of this survey, the 20-day model has taken a slight lead among students in terms of overall preference, as 34.8% of students strongly prefer the 20-day model and 17.9% of students slightly prefer it (for **a total of 52.7% leaning towards the 20-day model**). On the other hand, 28.4% of students strongly prefer the 8-day model and 14.2% of students slightly prefer it (for **a total of 42.6% leaning towards the 8-day model**). 4.7% of students indicate that they have no preference.

The survey also included two questions to help determine which model is perceived by most students as better for time management and learning retention. **A slight majority of students (55.4%) think the 20-day model is better for time management. For learning retention, the 8-day model is preferred by 59.1% of students.**

From the voting and the comments, it is clear that both models have their pros and cons. Those who prefer the 20-day model for time management cite reasons such as only having to worry about three to four courses at a time and having a predictable timeline for assessments. Supporters of the 8-day cycle for time

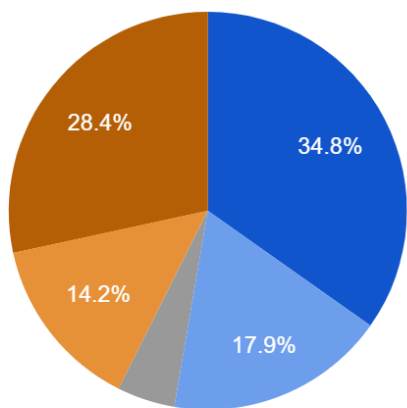
management mention that having courses on alternating days allows additional flexibility for homework completion. For some students, having unbalanced terms under the 20-day model has exacerbated the challenge of time management.

For learning retention, those who prefer the 8-day cycle usually state that for many courses requiring consistent effort, such as second-language and math-related courses, the 20-day off-period in between terms has made them forget a lot of the content taught in previous terms. In contrast, some of the minority who prefer the 20-day model for learning retention claim that focusing only on three to four courses at a time actually has enhanced their learning.

In the survey, we left a special comment box where students could leave their suggestions for the school regarding academics, co-curriculars, athletics, learning models, assessments, or any other aspect of school life. Students have keenly left **a variety of suggestions, particularly pertaining to access to lockers, access to the LD/UD, in-class and between-class breaks, physical activity, community time, lunch, and etc.**

On behalf of *Convergence*, I would like to thank the school management for supporting this survey, as well as many other surveys we conducted over the past one and a half years. From our "schooling format" survey back in May 2020 to this survey on our learning models, over the course of COVID-19, surveys have become a prominent feature of *Convergence*. They have served to build consensus within our community, while allowing different opinions to be heard during this unprecedented time.

We really want to express our deep and sincere gratitude to those hundreds of students who have participated in our surveys - thank you for your support for



- Strong Preference for 20-Day Model
- Slight Preference for 20-Day Model
- No Preference
- Slight Preference for 8-Day Model
- Strong Preference for 8-Day Model

*Convergence*, and thank you for shaping our school life together.

As usual, all comments left in this survey have been published below in their entirety. For the ease of reading, we have divided them into three groups: **Pro 20-Day Model Comments, Pro 8-Day Cycle Comments, and Suggestions for the School.** The school management has

told *Convergence* repeatedly that they read and consider student opinions and comments very carefully.

At the end of last year, *Convergence* started a new annual tradition called “**Year-in-Review**”. This is an annual same-question survey that, over the years, could reveal trends of the UCC community’s opinions on a wide range of

issues - from students’ wellbeing to their global views. In fact, you can anonymously rate the performance of yourself, our school, Canada, and humanity as a whole over the past year in this annual survey. So stay tuned, and we look forward to your participation in early December!

## COMMENTS LEFT BY STUDENTS

*The comments below are written by students of the Upper School and do not represent the view of Convergence.*

### Pro 20-Day Model Comments

“I have seen dramatic improvements in both my own academic achievement as well as that of my peers with this new model. I do not deny that it takes a bit of time to re-adjust on the first few days of a term, but even so it poses no issues to memory retention - it just seems like it does because of those first few days.”

“Personally I love the 20-day cycle system, as it stops assignments from piling up and makes it much easier to manage your time. I think that it also allows you to pay more attention in each class because you are not having to focus on many different things during the week. Also, this method means that during a week your brain only has to encode information on four topics. We talked about this in advising last week - your brain only commits information to long term memory during sleep.”

“Pros of the 20-day model are that you know what to expect from each class, you get to put your full work into it, and you can check for homework easily and come prepared to classes for the day easily. A con is that once you do that for 20 days, it can leave your memory for a little bit but it honestly comes back later.”

“The 20-day model is the best because it allows you to be in the zone for your tests which makes you perform better.”

“The 20-day model holds much more organisation. With the 8-day model, summatives will likely be close to each other, creating more stress for students.”

“The 20-day cycle has made it easier for some to manage studying at home. Importantly, for those living in two different homes due to family arrangements, an 8-day cycle will make it extremely difficult to carry binders and textbooks back and forth as there are no lockers to store our school supplies. Many people in this situation will find themselves struggling to find room for everything that we need.”

“Much better for time management.”

“Balancing three or four classes at once is way easier than all eight, especially during summative-heavy times.”

“I am very used to the 20-day term cycle and switching would impact my time organization negatively.”

“Much easier to manage work and avoid summative condensing with the 20-day model.”

“For the 20-day model we get a more focused time for each subject!”

“I personally tend to have a preference towards the 20-day cycle given that it’s the most effective method the school has had so far to prevent, for lack of a better term, ‘hell weeks’. The 20-day cycle ensures that the most assessments any student can possibly have due in the same week are around four or five (with it usually being a three-assessment week), meaning that overall stress is far lower. The only issue with the 20-day cycle is its difficulties with information retention and exams. It’s much easier to forget about what you’ve learned after around a month or so of basically not touching that subject at all, making it very difficult to remember large amounts of information. - Jack Zhu”

“Strongly pro 20-day, I like the fact that this style of learning is predictable. Sure you will have a busy last few days of every term, but you know this in advance and can prepare for it. The 8-day cycle was more volatile in terms of summatives where you could have a calm week and then a super busy week because the formatting was not as structured.”

“I enjoy the 20-day model because I believe it is better for time management and it gives me more time to prepare for and complete summative assessments.”

“The 20-day model is better because you only have a maximum of four pieces of homework at any given point instead of eight. Plus you can focus a lot more on specific subjects during 20 days.”

“You can’t remember eight concepts at a time. Three or four at a time is much much more manageable. Homework load is also much easier to manage, and you can’t have more than three assessments at a time.”



"The 20-day model allows students to put their focus on only a few subjects at once whereas the 8-day model forces students to constantly think about an entire eight subjects simultaneously in order to perform well."

"I would say the 20-day cycles are a lot stronger than the 8-day cycles because instead of having to focus on all classes every day, students can focus on four classes resulting in a better mind state for those classes. Less of a workload could help the students' mental health involving stress. With focusing on four classes, the homework load would be less, helping relieve stress. Also, the class work will be of higher quality because students have more time and only have to focus on half of the classes, instead of having to possibly rush their homework to get it done when it interferes with other outside of school plans, teams, etc."

"I believe that the 20-day model is extremely beneficial as it alleviates stress and lets courses stay 'fresh' and not become stale as you only have four at a time."

"The 20-day cycle is better for management and mental health."

"At this stage, the 20-day cycle must stay. There is no point in changing it after all this time."

"Juggling six IB courses plus TOK is not ideal."

"The pro of having the 20-day cycle is being able to focus on a narrower range of topics. This allows me to play sports after school while only worrying about checking off tasks from four different subjects (this is just one pro)."

"I really think that the 20-day model helps me to focus on four subjects and not worry about the other subjects. For me, it helps with my time management and not procrastinating."

"I think that having a 20-day learning model is very beneficial to learning retention and time management because it allows you to focus on only four subjects at a time rather than having to focus on eight. It's also very helpful because you know that you have the same four subjects every day, making it much easier to prepare for the school day. - Charlie B"

"The 20-day model resulted in more common hell weeks

with four or more in a short period of time. However this is much better than Christmas hell week where there were more than eight summatives at any given time. The 20-day model means that summatives are spread out over a longer period."

"When it comes to homework and things like that, the 20-day terms can be quite a bit as you get homework and it is due most of the time the next day, whereas the 8-day cycle gives you a day or two before the next class which allows for a little less stress. On the flip side, when it comes to summatives, the 20 day term is much more manageable. This is because there are only four subjects at most to study for, whereas in the normal 8-day cycle there are more subjects that you need to study for and worry about, which is a lot more stressful. I also think that with the 8-day cycle you can have anywhere from zero to eight summatives a week, whether it be a project, exam, or performance test. This can be very stressful and quite draining."

"Anonymous Year 8 Student here. I see some pros and cons of both models, yet I am leaning towards the 20-day model. I believe the 20-day model allows students to predict and manage their work accordingly and helps reduce stress overall. The 20-day model also allows students to accurately predict exactly what they will need for school, such as instruments and books and helps lessen confusion. The only benefit to the normal 8-day model I see personally would be that subjects like gym will take place every other day allowing for students to be more consistently active. Also, it allows for a more exciting and interesting school week and a lessened separation between subjects."

"You'll be more focused on four specific subjects and the topics you're learning, as well as better focused on upcoming summatives/exams."

"I need the 20-day model to stay focused on all my work. Eight classes all at once could be frustrating and disorganized."

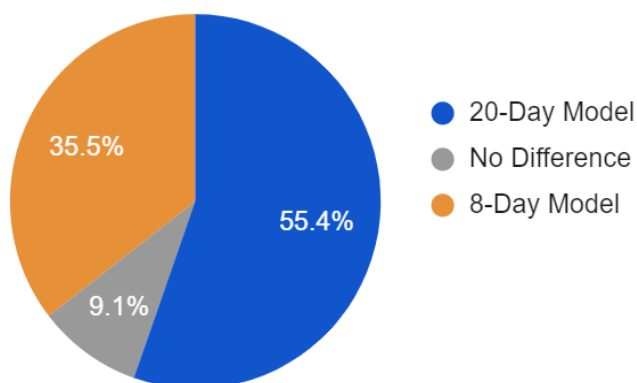
"The 20-day term allows for better learning as I can focus on certain subjects."

"The workload with the 8-day model is ridiculously hard to handle. You have to manage your time extremely well if you want to cover all subjects equally while at home. The 20-day model makes things far easier. The only downside is that if you want to study your courses in the other term you have to manage that yourself."

"The 20-day model makes sense in that I can focus more on the four subjects in the 20-day term instead of doing homework for one class, a project for another, and like 100 more homework in different subjects and languages."

"In years 11 and 12, there's absolutely zero way that students right now would be able to manage seven courses, IAs, and the EE, and for Y12s, university applications as well. Also, with the way the assessment calendar always places tests around the same time, we'd likely have two back-to-back weeks with two to four tests. Because we haven't been in class learning continuously for the past two years, I don't believe that the 8-day cycle would be a conducive environ-

### Which Model is Better for Time Management?



ment for academic prosperity.”

“Remove the 8-day model entirely. Everyone has gotten used to the 20-day model - it has become a norm. Quickly changing to the 8-day model will screw up everyone’s schedules and make weeks more stressful.”

“The 20-day model allows students to take a break from half of their subjects and direct all of their attention to just four classes. I have found that this allows for more time to study and get a better grasp of the lessons. The 20-day cycle has made it significantly easier to study and manage time. The 8-day model will result in students only having every other day to focus on a subject as there simply won’t be enough time to study a course on back-to-back days. As units for each subject tend to end at the same time, a 20-day model simply reduces stress by a significant factor.”

“Apart from all the factors listed before, the 20-day cycle is far better in regards to preparing the materials you need for school.”

“I would say the difficulty with switching is that it would throw off the rhythm we currently have with our cycle. I think if we do go back to the 8-day model, it would be a pretty difficult adjustment for a little while, especially depending on the grade the student is in.”

“The 20-day terms help student-athletes a lot as the course load is distributed very well throughout the year, allowing us to focus both on academics and athletics to the best of our abilities. Having the summative assessment days in these terms also helps students prepare for any tests or projects due at the end of the term at their own pace. This is the best possible situation for our students.”

“The 20-day model allows for fewer hell weeks for students.”

“Mental health is better during the 20-day cycle.”

## **Pro 8-Day Cycle Comments**

“The 20-day model teaches for tests, the 8-day model teaches to learn.”

“Last year in English, we only finished half of Macbeth because of the 20-day cycle. Then we had to read Animal Farm in a 10-day term, along with some major summatives. When can that ever be considered good for learning?”

“The 20-day model does not allow many opportunities to catch a break between courses. Oftentimes, it feels like an unrelenting grind that just never stops. You can never catch a break. It’s simply just one summative after another. Everything is just so clustered. However, some pros are arguably that you can focus on four subjects rather than having to encompass all eight subjects.

The 8-day model allows you two nights maximum to complete homework. This fact alone makes it far more appealing. Granted, you will have your other four subjects the next day; however, if you’re really not feeling up to do work in a

particular subject, there is more leeway to take a break and push it off onto the next day. This also allows more time for you to grab extra help in your homework and contact your teachers. If you’re struggling with the homework, you have a full day tomorrow to contact your teacher and receive extra help or ask questions. For summatives, I feel that there is a higher feeling of reward from completing them. This is because the content does not have to go so fast and be so compressed. Once you complete a math test, you can expect that you won’t really be having much math homework for a whole two nights and you won’t have to worry about math the next day. The point is, once you finish a summative you can sit back and relax a whole day before worrying about that subject again. Whereas, in this current model, you have that course again the next day and you have to learn new material once again.”

“The 20-day system creates too long of a gap between time spent on the subject. This is especially detrimental to learning languages as constant involvement with the material stimulates growth, while the more than 20 days not spent with the subject can lead to a loss in vocabulary and a constant need to refresh the language.”

“After about 17 days on one term, all the summatives and assessments come up. There is a lot of work for the last three days.”

“I believe in the 20-day terms, having the work always due the next day is overwhelming. In addition to this, we almost always have homework and lots of it from each class every night since it’s all squeezed into 20 days. However, I do enjoy being able to for example have a class I like for 20 days and then be able to not have to take a class I might not like for another 20 days.”

“In my opinion, the 8-day model is far more efficient than the current model. This is strongly due to time management. Alternating courses every day gives you an extra day to complete homework, if you are overloaded or are busy with extracurriculars on a specific day. Furthermore, with the current system of 20 days, some teachers have assigned projects that are due on the FIRST DAY when we get back. This project was introduced to us on the second last day of the term, and we are expected to complete it during the off term. It is far too chaotic, as you have four other subjects, along with diploma and Ontario mandatory courses (career assignments, personal projects, etc.). This would be much easier to complete if the 8-day model was in effect.”

“We have to wait 20 days before continuing our classes on another subject. I find myself forgetting a lot of information covered during that 20-day period. This can make the transition after the 20-day period really difficult.”

“The 20-day model gives no time to study for exams.”

“I feel like the 8-day

**LEARNING  
MODELS**



model is better for organization, improving more on skills for certain subjects and not going too long without doing a subject.”

“The 8-day model keeps you interacting with the boys you have only in, say, English class, on a consistent basis, whereas the 20-day model makes your friendship with those boys kinda on and off as you don’t see them as often, especially if they are boarding students. The 8-day model also keeps you learning all subjects at once, so you don’t forget how to speak French after not having it for a month, which is what happens with the current cycle. Just bring the 8-day cycle back!”

“Many students such as myself have very unbalanced terms that have strong effects on how much we study per day. In our easy terms, we have little homework, while our hard terms are filled with assessments that stress us out and give us an overload. With an 8-day model, not only do we get to interact more with different people on a daily basis but we also have more time to finish homework.”

“8-day pros: you have classes every other day so if you are really busy one night, you can do all of your homework the next night because you don’t have the same classes every day. 20-day cons: you go over a month without a class. During that time, enough students in the class don’t remember what happened so they either move on clueless or the teacher has to review everything.”

“The pros of the 20-day system are very simple, because there aren’t many:

- You know when summatives are going to be.
- It is unlikely you will have more than four summatives at once (aside from Diploma stuff).
- You only have to deal with three to four classes worth of homework.

The 8-day system has far more pros:

- You also know when summatives will be, because the school provided us with a fantastic assessment calendar that contains the dates for every summatives ahead of time.
- Your summatives will be more spread out despite the chance of having more of them, making it unlikely you will have large choke points of misery like the end of every 20-day term.
- There is much more time to place summatives in, so it becomes far less likely to have more than one summative due on the same day or more than one test on the same day.
- You have two days to do homework or get extra help with material you don’t understand. This is especially important in cumulative subjects like Math or Sciences where not understanding content on a Monday means that on Tuesday you won’t understand that concept or the next concept, and it snowballs to the point where a small extra help session isn’t enough to catch you up. And you can’t get extra help between that Monday and Tuesday on such short notice. In

the 20-day system, this is a serious issue because classes are back to back, so if the material is cumulative to the next class it becomes harder and harder to catch up, whereas you have a day to schedule an extra help session in the 8-day system.

- The material doesn’t feel condensed into the timeframe. For example, I finished English and History each with two classes left in the term and we did absolutely nothing of value. In a 20-day system, we could just move on to the next topic without any worry of forgetting the knowledge over the large gap.

- As I just said, it’s a lot harder to remember things over a large gap without practicing, meaning you essentially have homework from two terms in each term, but without any of the benefits, so long as you want to keep up.

I truly hope the school does hear the feedback about this because I really don’t know a single person who is pleased with the 20-day cycle.”

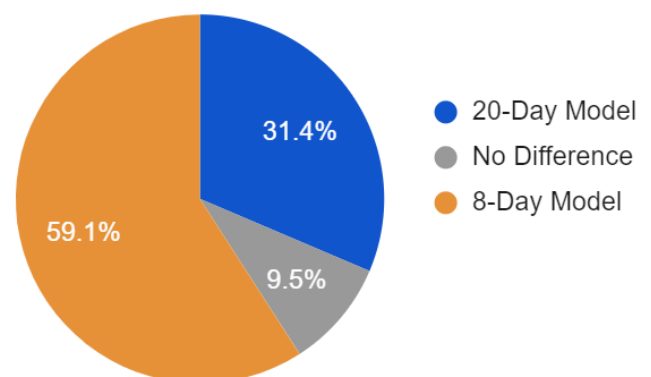
“I have the memory of a cucumber, 20-day model makes me forget everything while teachers expect us to retain everything from the previous term.”

“The 20-day model makes classes have strict deadlines and units/assessments must be finished within that time frame. This either causes units and assessments to be very rushed, or it causes students to have to start a second unit in the term without finishing it, which often may be annoying. The 8-day cycle is also likely to be better for spaced repetition, as students are returning to the course every two days instead of 20, in which most students would’ve likely forgotten some of the content covered previously.”

“I think it would be better for certain classes such as Math and French to stay continuous, just every other day. These classes require constant retention of information, and it’s difficult coming in and out of them every month.”

“I am very pro the 8-day model for three reasons. First, with the 8-day model there is always more time to do and prepare for assessments because there are more days in between classes. Additionally, with regard to assessment preparation, because assessments will be more dispersed, we do not get the day at the end of the 20-day cycle when all three tests fall on the same day. Secondly, school is signifi-

### Which Model is Better for Learning Retention?





cantly more enjoyable during the 8-day model. I feel that towards the end of each term, especially for subjects that I do not find particularly interesting, it can get very boring. And finally, there are some subjects like Math and French where going a month without doing it is actually detrimental to your performance.”

“With the 20-day model people forget what they learned last term. Furthermore, imbalance between terms in the 20-day model makes workloads polarized for students.”

“It’s incredibly obvious that the 20-day learning model has proven to be ineffective. Hell weeks, which at the time I thought to be brutal are now turning into incomprehensibly stressful hell days that lead to cramming, bad test marks, and disappointed parents. Furthermore, the use of the academic calendar in the 20-day schedule seems to be useless as tests are still getting crammed on top of each other even when the academic calendar was supposed to fix all of the time management and test scheduling problems.

The even bigger problem is the learning retention, not having a language like French that is essential to practice every day, or not having subjects like Math, Chemistry, Physics and Biology that require intense memorization for an entire 20 days, can be extremely detrimental to the learning of all students. The 8-day schedule would propose solutions to many of these faults. A more effective spacing of assessments would minimize stress and allow for early planning instead of having assessments all spring up at once at the end of the term. Memory retention would be greatly increased as you would be consistently learning. Plus, the 8-day schedule would allow for practicing and building upon the skills and material you are learning in class, instead of stopping after 20 days and then taking the beginning of the next term just to remember what you learned in the previous one. The 8-day schedule is a clear winner.”

“The huge issue with the 20-day model is that all summatives are at the same time, and not having a class for 20 days can completely kill retention and make studying between terms necessary and chaotic. Furthermore, due to the 20-day terms, there are less tests per subject. And tests can be really difficult as they cover more, and are worth a lot more, to the point where one test can completely tank your mark.”

“Cons to 20-day model:

- One of the ‘advantages’ is that work is not supposed to carry over into the other term but often it does.
- All assessments HAVE to pile up near the end of term making it necessary for an assessment day (in other systems, units would not necessarily overlap).

- It is hard to get back into things when switching terms (forget everything); some classes require constant practice (i.e. Math, language acquisition).

- The schedule is confusing and hard to remember.
- Terms are broken up by breaks; The school year cannot be fit perfectly into 20 days.
- Terms are both too long (20 days doing the same thing), and too short (most courses or units weren’t designed to fit in for 20-day periods).
- There is an imbalance between terms - One could have a harder or easier term.
- Homework must be done for every day (as opposed to every other day in odd and even cycles).
- There is little to no flexibility in classes.

- Hewitt Ho”

“I think while the 20-day model can be beneficial, a lot of work, especially in subjects where you may need to memorize things (Science, Math, etc), is easily forgotten over the next 20-day period. While with COVID, a 20-day model is effective to help prevent the spread, educationally, the 8-day model makes a much more positive impact on my learning.”

“There is zero conceivable upside to the 20-day cycle now that we are back with everybody in class.”

“The 20-day terms are awful for remembering what we did last term. It makes my classes feel super rushed and hard to learn.”

“The 8-day model is a much better system for learning. It limits stress as you have a break before you have that class again. In addition, the 8-day model allows for homework which can be very overwhelming to not be due in one day. The 20-day model is very repetitive and classes get very stressful and sometimes boring. The 8-day model is also better because it allows for breaks in the schedule which is something we desperately need.”

“The 20-day term model has led to some very questionable time schedules. An example which I believe should never have happened was having to collect data for a lab the day before the whole lab write-up is due, which has never happened before on the 8-day cycle.”

“20-day bad!”

“The 20-day term means less workload, but also means much, much easier to forget. It’s a give and take scenario.”

“The 8-day model is better for managing work.”

“The 20-day cycle distorts summative schedules and makes the end of the terms terrible for students. Additionally, some subjects must set summatives before the end of the term. Although for tests this is appreciated, there is no benefit at all to mandate a project be due before the term ends (while the day 20 assessment day is not used). Furthermore, it is inevitable that some students have heavy subjects clustered in one term, creating a more stressful situation and reducing the quality of work produced.”

**WELLBEING**



"I have very unbalanced terms. I struggle as I have Math, Coding, English, and Science in the same term."

"A lot of work piles up with the 20-day model and the homework is always due the day after. In my opinion, the 8-day model is much better."

"The 20-day model has me forget half the stuff I learned in my former term when I move on to another term. I also feel like an 8-day alternating term would be less stressful."

"Although the load of homework is equivalent, it gives us time to manage even if assessments might be heavier, and at least it is consistent throughout the year. When you come back from a 20-day cycle, you forget everything, and you need to remember the content for the first few classes while learning other things. - Malek Elhaddad Y9"

"8-day ftw!"

"The issue is that due to the 20-day cycle, our blackout period for exams is practically non-existent, it puts us at a huge disadvantage compared to previous years as they at least had a long enough blackout period to balance studying and getting IAs done."

"Go to the 8-day cycle!"

"Terms are unbalanced, workload worse."

"If we do the 8-day schedule then people will stay sharp on all subjects, as opposed to earning them for 20 days then forgetting them in the next 20 days."

## **Suggestions for the School**

"I would prefer a semestered model so we would have four classes until February and then we switch to the other four classes until the end of the year."

"One thing that can be improved about school is the fact that we absolutely need lockers. Especially during the winter season when we have boots, hats, jackets, and gloves and we need somewhere to put them."

"UCC is the ONLY school in the province that does not allow students to buy food and/or eat in cafeterias (UD, LD, Student Centre). The old lunch system should be reimplemented immediately with students being able to buy lunch day by day, and go to the UD, LD, and Student Centre. There

is actually no reason why this can not be done, as the only provincial regulation for lunch at school is, 'students may eat, indoors, with a minimum distance of two meters maintained between cohorts and as much distancing as possible within a cohort.' Currently,

there are already two meters between all tables in the UD, Student Centre, and LD, so the school could reopen all dining areas with the only rule being you must sit at a table with students in your grade. Furthermore, if every other public and private school in the province can figure out lunch, UCC should be able to as well.

Another area the school should immediately fix is the lack of locker rooms for students. First off, faculty are able to use their locker rooms, so a double standard is being applied to students and faculty as the school believes that locker rooms are safe for staff but not students. Secondly, the provincial government stipulates, 'Use of lockers/cubbies is permitted. When different cohorts interact in shared indoor spaces, masking and as much distancing as possible should be maintained between cohorts.' This suggests that house lockers are possible, as students could be wearing masks. If the school wanted to be cautious about reopening lockers, they could do year-level locker rooms, with each grade receiving two locker rooms, and the Y8's using the second-floor lockers.

Overall though, the school needs to start reopening, as currently, it seems like Admin just could not be bothered about it." (**Convergence:** the school has just allowed Y8s to use lockers and has planned for other changes as per Dr. Aitken's recent email to UCC families).

"If the boys and I can sit in close proximity together in the Student Centre during lunch, why can't we have lockers, or access to the LD & UD if we're going to be just as close there as we are during lunch currently?"

"Please bring back lockers. A lot of other private schools have lockers despite COVID. As the weather gets colder, for people who don't get driven to school (like me) carrying around winter clothes, especially wet or snowy winter clothes, it is going to be a huge issue."

"We are given an assessment day but all of my assessments are due the day before."

"I feel like the 8-day cycle should be reintroduced for classes, with some ideas from the 20-day model. The 8-day cycle was logical and fairly easy to remember, and in my opinion, is better for learning with all eight courses at once."

The class length should be kept consistent as in the current cycle (no 45 minute periods); the concept of a consistent community time is a good thing (as opposed to the regular schedule, modified schedule, etc.). However there is little flexible time in community time as it is filled with forced programming which often ruins the purpose; there should still be recess and to make room for this, each class could be a bit shorter (i.e. 75 minutes). Lunch time is also too short; often there is barely enough time to even eat - it should be at least an hour again. Clubs can run during community time and at lunch / after school with more total time slots available for clubs; many people want to participate in more than four clubs or want to participate in multiple clubs with the same time slot, but they are currently unable to. Lastly, sleep-ins replacing community time should also be reinstated; they don't need to be every week but on a semi-regular basis (once or twice a month)."

### **CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM**





"All summatives are crammed into the last week and it is so much stress to the point where I just freak out."

"It is hard to sit through 80-minute classes."

"Please involve the gym in both cycles! In my opinion, we need exercise every day."

"Every single deadline ends up being at the exact same time. This month was three tests on the 3rd followed by EE on the 8th and then IA on the 10th and then exams on the 16th. Not good for my mental health."

"Pros of the 20-day model: You learn a lot quicker and it forces you to follow the class otherwise you risk not knowing a certain topic. Cons of the 20-day model: A lot of stuff to remember and learn, and you can get very busy and stressed about the work, especially if some of the subjects give you homework every day. I cannot say anything about the 8-day model as I am new to the school this year and have not experienced the 8-day model yet, therefore I am unable to judge."

"Well the 20-day model is great for learning, it takes a month to get another in a rotation."

"Regardless of whether or not the 8-day schedule is pursued, locker rooms must be restarted to allow for the storage of books and supplies necessary for each day of learning. Also, the grad lounge needs to be opened immediately. It was recently renovated, and letting it waste away is the last thing the graduating class intended for it to do. Disappointing."

"Fix the exam schedule. What in the world were you thinking!"

"The school still tries to stagger summatives out which may work for tests but does not work out well for projects, especially when the project is pushed earlier. This does not help at all and in fact makes it worse."

"Community time needs better structure."

"Maybe to have Phys. Ed class or some form of activity every day."

"Assuming we go back to the 8-day cycle, keep it exactly as it was when it was last implemented. For instance, don't have asynchronous assessment days."

"No suggestions, I love the way school is going right now."

## ROUTINES



"I would like it if all spares took place in the first time slot of the day since it improves sleep times for students and leads to a healthier routine."

"Everyone is vaccinated so masks should not be required."

"Would it be possible to open up the UD and LD again, but cohort them? Because the day boys' bagged lunch right now is brutal."

"I would say for the 20-day schedule, some students have four extremely strong classes (Geography, Math, Science, and English) in one term and then have four less strong classes (Art, Music, P.E) in another term. If it could be spread out more evenly, that could be better for the students."

"Please bring the Cooking Club back. I really wanted to participate in it and it was the only club I wanted to do. I'm really bored in the club I am participating in now."

"I suggest the Admin encourage teachers to give five minutes breaks in the middle of every class. This will allow for students to reset mentally and get rid of any thoughts (write down, tell a friend, tell a teacher, etc). It is important to get rid of these thoughts as they may disengage the student from the lesson."

"Personally, I believe there is not enough time for students to be active, even though being active improves your performance and learning in school! Either the lunch needs to be extended to allow for students to go outside or there needs to be a designated break/recess time where students are encouraged to be active."

"Will there be skiing available this year?"

"We need more breaks in the schedule. Before COVID, we had a five-minute break in every class, recess, and a longer lunch. Now, we have none of those. We need a longer break - I and a lot of people I have talked to are feeling stressed and overwhelmed."

"I would love to go back to the UD :("

"Sleep-ins should be brought back."

"Better hot lunch and an actual break time between classes."

"Clubs should be more flexible to prevent as many conflicts as there are now."

"The full hurt exams that are coming up are quite challenging for students, as we haven't had an exam that covered multiple topics like this in a while. I believe last year's topics should be recovered in class and made no hurt on the final exam especially for math-related classes where the content we do now is essentially an amalgamation of what we did last year. For example, for calculus and vectors, we won't be able to do those types of questions without prior knowledge, so shortening exams to only focus on relevant and recent tests would help a lot of students."

"I would just say to continue progressing back to normal life."

"Bring back SAS after school please!"