

New Features in *TimeTabler 2025*

Factors that can affect Well-being

On the Well-being page accessed via **Dashboard** → **Well-being**, there are additional links under the **More** section. These links will take you quickly to the relevant KnowledgeBase Article (including the one mentioned on the last page - Long Lessons) and we hope that they help you to see the range of well-being possibilities.

More ...

More factors that can affect Well-being - see also the articles below:

[Quality](#)

[Split-teaching](#)

[Part-timers](#)

[Long lessons](#)

[Staff hours](#)

[Commuting](#)

[Travel time](#)

Well-being - Long Lessons

To help you to identify **Long lessons**, there is now the option on the **Class Timetable Screen** (accessed on the **Visual Builder Screen**) to choose to highlight any non-single lessons.

Go to **Style** → **Highlight** → **Long lessons (D, T, etc)**. You can review how your students are experiencing longer lessons.

A red long lesson is one that follows another long lesson in that day; a blue long lesson does not. You can find out more in a new KnowledgeBase Article - search for **Long Lessons**.

ST Eng BJ Eng	JHa Mat VH Mat JWi	JD Sci	VP Geo
	GM His	DKe Geo	PW Sci

Analysing Quality

When you are analysing the Quality of your timetable, there are now two improvements to help you spot the real problems:

a) Quality Report

When running the **Quality Report** accessed via **Check & Tidy** → **Quality Optimiser** → **Quality Report**

The warning that a Class may have the same Subject twice on a given day is now fairer as it looks at Block-labels and thinks that if the Block-label differs for two Blocks, then the Subjects in those Blocks will have few or no students in common.

For example:

If Class 11EF has these lessons on Friday:

Friday	11EF Eng. SG Eng. DA Eng. DS	11EF 'D' Sci. RPa Sci. RC Art ATa Tech HB	11EF 'C' Geog SW Sci. GWa Tech AK	11EF Hist JC Sci. PW Art BI
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... then in previous versions, you would have seen this line in the **Students** section of your Quality report:

11EF student may have Sci. twice on Friday (3&5)

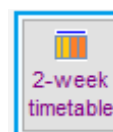
... but now you won't. The Block-labels are different, so **TimeTabler** now judges that the students in the two Science groups will be different.

Also, if you have one Block that has not been given a Block-label and a second that has, **TimeTabler** now judges that the students in the two blocks will be studying different subjects and so will not include the lessons of those blocks in the Quality report.

See **Section D11** in the **TimeTabler Manual** for more information about Block Labels.

b) Lesson Spread

If you have a two-week timetable and are wondering how best to review its **Spread**, we have included a link on the **Lesson Spread** screen accessed via **Check & Tidy** → **Quality Optimiser** → **Lesson Spread** which will take you to the KnowledgeBase Article which suggests different reports and features that are available in **TimeTabler** (or you can search for **2-week** in our KnowledgeBase)



Please note: The link appears if your cycle implies that you have a two-week timetable i.e. it has 8, 10, 12, or 14 days.

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Visual Builder - Height


On the **Visual Builder** screen you now have more choice over the height of the Class and Teacher sections. This is done in two ways:

i) If you tick the new **AutoSize** box then **TimeTabler** will try to size the Classes for this lesson section so that it shows all the Classes (if they will fit): AutoSize


ii) If you still don't like what you see, you can also click on the new **Height** button, to cycle the heights around a few choices:

Validating your Schedule

On the report which pops up when you close a Schedule, there is now a clear message indicating whether you need to take action (red errors) or not (warnings and checks of other colours). This happens through a new summary header at the top of the screen, which says:

You have some Red Errors that you need to deal with - see below 

or

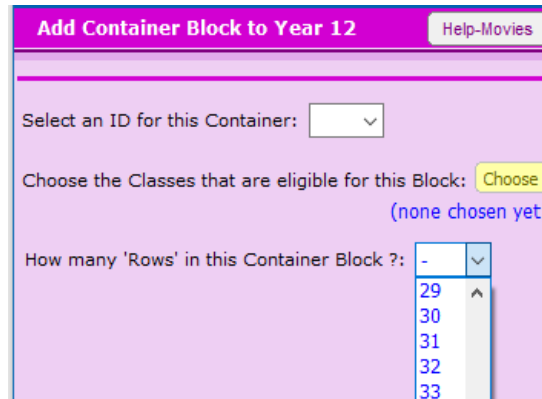
You have only advisory warnings or checks, which you may choose to ignore 

You can click on the **blue ?** to find out more.

If action needs to be taken, an additional message is shown: **Red Checks (Errors)** 

Container Blocks - Number of Rows

The number of rows you can choose for a Container Block has been increased from 40 to 60 as some schools need more rows:



Container Blocks - R-Reserving

When **R-Reserving** your Container Blocks you can now see any Simple Blocks that have been scheduled as well as your Container Blocks.

Go to **Current Schedule** **Reserve** **Summary**, you are shown any Simple Block Labels as well as the Container Blocks that you have R-Reserved. This can help you to see the overall pattern of a class or year's lessons and enable you to R-Reserve periods manually more easily.



Summary

Tue	1	2	AM	3	4	5a	5b	6	7	PM	8
	A			P	R						C
	A				R			Q			C
	A				R						C

The Simple Blocks are shown in orange (the same as on the Class Timetable Screen)

You can hide the Simple Blocks if you wish, by unticking **Show Simple / Other Blocks too** (toward the top of the screen).

Show Simple/Other Blocks too

Please note: For the Simple Blocks to show on the Summary they must have been assigned a Block Label. See **Section D11** in the **TimeTabler Manual** for more information about Block Labels.

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Fit / AutoFit

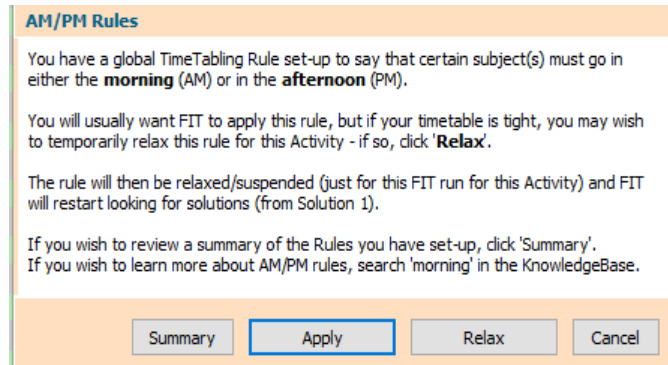
When you are using FIT (Musical Chairs), improvements have been made so that any AM/PM rule you set-up within Global Timetabling Rules is adhered to by FIT.

For example, if you have said that Maths should only be scheduled in the morning, FIT won't show you any moves that would place Maths in the afternoon.

However, if you don't want FIT to follow these rules all of the time, especially when your timetable is tight, there is an extra option in the **Filter** section on the FIT screen named **Rules**. **Please note:** Rules will be greyed out if you don't have any AM/PM Rules set up.

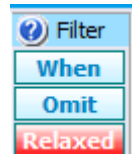


When you click on **Rules** you will be presented with this screen:



which allows you to relax this rule just for this FIT run for this Activity. FIT will look for new solutions with this rule relaxed, starting at Solution 1.

For example, if your timetable is tight and you are happy to have one Maths lesson in the afternoon then clicking Relax will start FIT running from Solution 1 again, but this time with any solutions included which would have the Maths lesson placed in the afternoon slots.



The button on the FIT screen changes to show Relaxed when you have chosen to relax a rule:

If you want to re-apply the rule for this FIT run for this Activity, click on **Relaxed**, then choose **Apply**. FIT will look for new solutions with the Rule applied (for example, Maths to be placed only in the morning), starting at Solution 1.

As well as on the FIT screen you are now also warned if you have Rules set that will affect the Solutions you are shown by a message appearing on the **Start Auto-Scheduler** screen which appears when you click on **Go** at the bottom right of the Visual Builder screen.



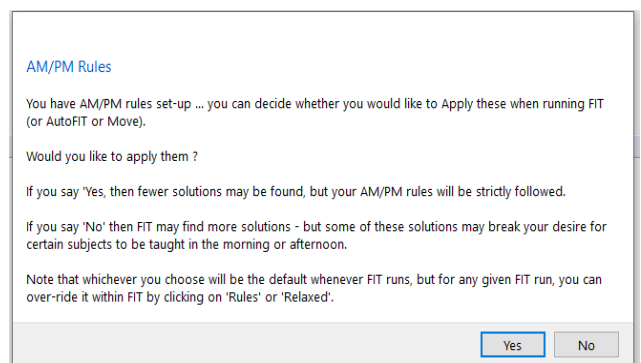
If FIT doesn't find any solutions with the Rule applied, or you want to change the setting for more than the one Activity, you can click on the **Rules** button at the top-right of the Visual Builder screen.



You will then be asked if you would like to **Apply the Rules** you have set up:

Please note: This setting remains active for your current scheduling session unless you click on the button again or you choose to switch between Apply and Relax on individual Activities.

After you finish scheduling and close the Visual Builder screen, when you re-open the Visual Builder Screen the Rules you have set will **Apply** once more.



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Other Improvements

The following, we hope, will improve your productivity whilst using **TimeTabler**.

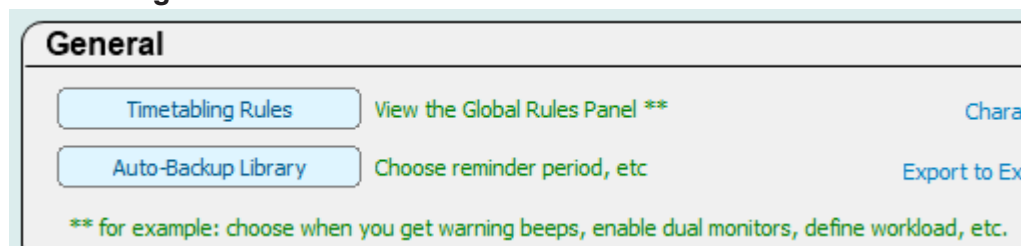
a) You can assign a colour and label/comment to your current data, which will appear in a banner at the top of the opening screen. If you have two (or more) sets of data / folders on your computer which you are moving between (for example, this year's timetable and next year's timetable) you can quickly recognise which you are currently looking at.

To edit, click on the banner and enter the text and choose the colour. The default is dark blue and "My Timetable"



Please note: Banners are stored in the Backup files, so if you Restore an earlier Backup, the Backup's Banner will be restored with it.

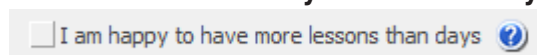
b) If you are annoyed by the various beeps and warnings in **TimeTabler**, it is now more obvious that you can turn off many of them. When you visit the **Customize Overview** panel you are directed to the **Timetabling Rules** area:



c) If you are new to **TimeTabler** you may get confused by what a **Class** is, especially if you have come from Nova T where Class is what we call a **Teaching Group**. On the **Classes** screen, there is now a **blue ?** to click, to learn more about **Classes**.



d) You can choose to **turn off** the warning that pops up as you leave the **Curriculum Diagram**, if **TimeTabler** can see a possible problem with the way you have entered the Activities, that you **have more lessons of a DayBlocked activity, than days in your cycle**:



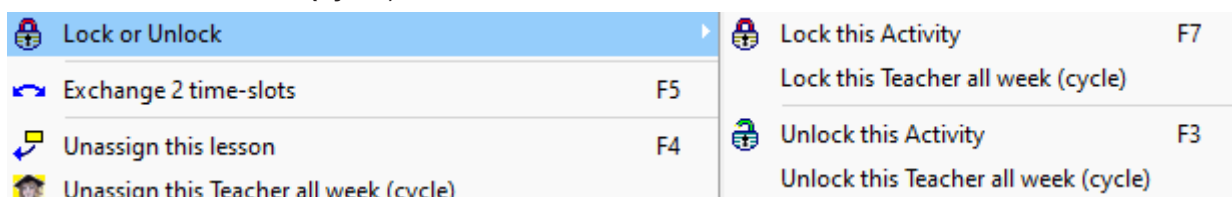
To see why this can sometimes be useful click on the **blue ?**

e) All the **exports to Excel** have been improved so that the **colours** in the Excel file are now the same as the colours in **TimeTabler**, in previous versions the closest Excel colour was selected.

f) The **Staff Proformas** (distributed to and collected from Heads of Department) have been improved so that:

- i) messages are more expansive
- ii) you are reminded (if you click on the **blue ?**) that you can choose your Excel format (xls or xlsx).

g) You can now **Lock** (or **Unlock**) all of a particular teacher's lessons from within the **Staff Timetable Screen** in the Visual Builder. Right click on any lesson for that teacher, and choose **Lock** or **Unlock** → **Lock this Teacher all week (cycle)**:



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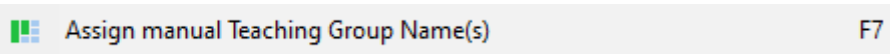
Other Improvements continued

h) **Auto-Assign PPA** previously allowed you to avoid assigning PPA in a period starting R, B, or L. You can now specify the same for a period starting with **Any letter**, for example, if you have **Tutor** periods:

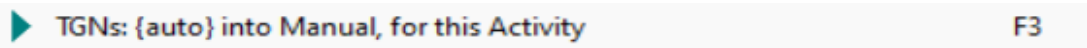
Ignore any Period whose short label starts with: (so can avoid Reg, Break or Lunch periods).

i) Curriculum Diagram or Batch:

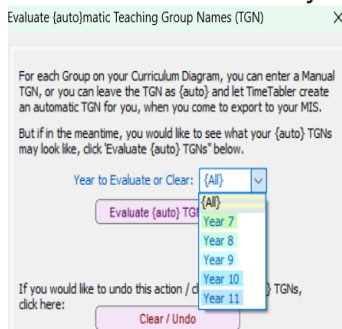
You can now assign a **Manual TGN** more quickly by highlighting the activity and pressing function key **F7**:



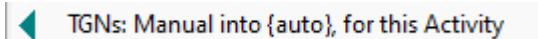
And turn an **{auto}TGN into a Manual TGN** more quickly by clicking on the activity and pressing function key **F3**:



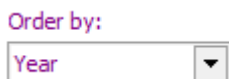
You can now select a specific year group and only **Evaluate TGNs** (Teaching Group Names) for that year. Click on **TGN → Evaluate (auto) TGNs** and choose the year group you would like to evaluate.



The option to convert a TGN from **Manual to {auto}** has been added to the right-click drop-down menu for any Activity on the Curriculum Diagram. This allows you to set an automatic TGN rule that you want to apply to specific Activities only.

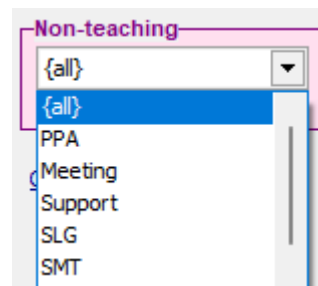


j) Global Timetabling Rules: you can now choose the **sort-order** in which you wish to see your **Consistent Groups**:

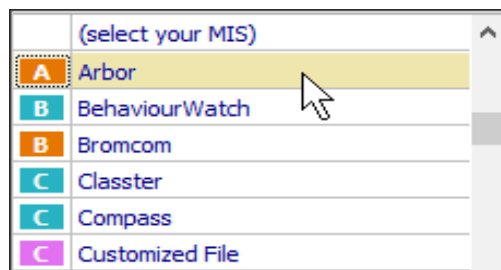


k) **Staff Non-teaching Timetable**: you can already print/publish a timetable showing just a teacher's Non-teaching Activities (NTA). In the Print section click on **Non-teaching timetables**

The filter has been improved so that you can now choose to show just Unavailability or Special Locations:



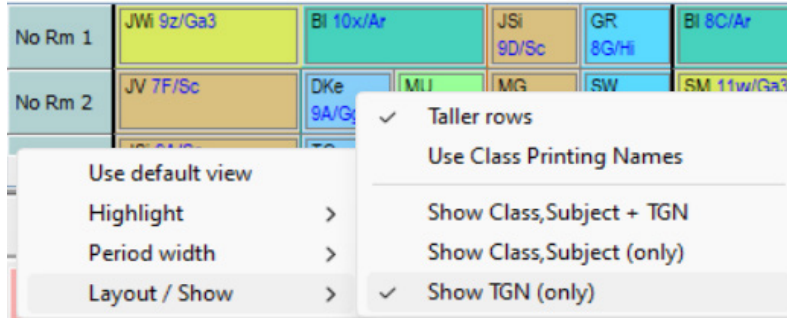
l) **Export to MIS**: Due to the large number of MIS we now export to, the list of MIS is now given in alphabetical order. After you have selected your MIS it will be remembered the next time you go to Export.



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Features added into *TimeTabler 2024* after the main release

Room Timetable Screen: extra style options have been added at **Style**→**Layout/Show** including **Show TGN (only)**



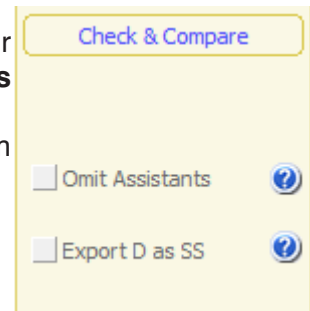
Export to SIMS: When you connect to SIMS at the end of the export process, you now have the option to tick **Trusted**. This will replace your SIMS login details with /trusted for the Timetable and by /T for the Cycle. This can bypass your SIMS login and works better for some schools. Only use it if you know that your SIMS system works this way.



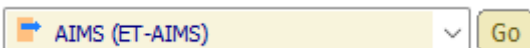
There is also the ability to **Preview** what you are about to send from *TimeTabler* into SIMS. Click on the **Preview button** and you can check that it looks right before you connect to SIMS.



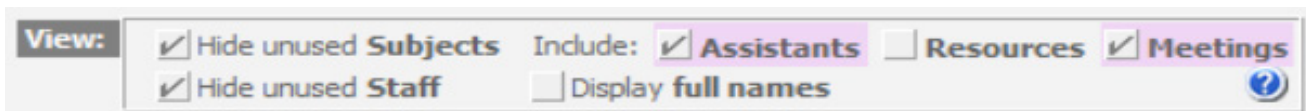
Exporting Assistants: Assistants can now be omitted from the export to your MIS at Step 6 where you are asked to create the Export. Tick **Omit Assistants before** you click on **Create Export**. This is useful if your MIS does not accept Assistants or does not display them as you would wish.



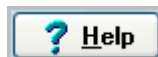
Export to ET-AIMS: an export to ET-AIMS has been added to the list of MIS that you can export to:



Staff Loading Chart: remembers the choices you have included and highlights any that are not part of the default setting or that you might want to consider changing.



- The HelpScreens have been updated.



Please remember : **before** starting your next New timetable, look **first** at the HelpMovie entitled:



8.	Tidying-up last year's data, ready to do a New timetable (How to re-use your data efficiently. Promote, Clone, & Rename batches.)	14 min	15MB
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