

Dear Parents' Assembly Member,

Welcome to a special edition of our bulletin about our consultation on proposed school terms and holidays 2019/20 and Year 7 transition days.

[Section 32 of the Education Act 2002](#) requires us to determine the dates when the school terms and holidays are to begin and end for schools under our control (i.e. Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools) for the 2019/20 academic year.

Schools that are their own admission authorities such as academies and church-aided schools may set their own term dates. It is, however, desirable if there is a common set of dates across the city, at least for the main holidays.

You are invited to respond to the proposed term dates for the 2019/20 academic year. The school calendar must consist of 195 days, 5 of which are designated teacher training days. Our proposed term dates for 2019/20 are listed under **4. School Holidays**.

### **1. Fixing the Easter Break**

- You may recall that an extensive consultation process was held on the 2017/18 school calendar. This included a seminar with Headteachers and Governors and consultation with the Parents' Assembly.
- The number of respondents in each category was as follows:
  - Parent / Carer (899)
  - Headteacher / Principal (43)
  - Member of school staff – teaching (148)
  - Member of school staff – non-teaching (75)
  - School Governor (26)
  - School Service Provider (2)
  - Partner or Voluntary Organisation (5)
  - Elected Member (0)
  - Union Representative (1 plus two additional email responses)
  - Other (16)
- There were 1200 responses received.
- 71% of those responding preferred the proposed model that fixed Easter at the first two weeks in April. Some of the key reasons for supporting were:
  - It helps to facilitate more even half terms

- It ensures that there is sufficient time for KS2 SATs preparation when schools return
- In response to the strong support for fixing the Easter Break, it is proposed to do so again in 2020 from Monday 30 March - returning on Tuesday 14 April.

## **2. Current Principles Behind Setting Term Dates**

- The key principles to setting the calendar are:
  - The Christmas break will be at least 10 weekdays, and will normally start at the end of the school day on the Friday which is on, or otherwise immediately prior to, 22 December.
  - The February half term holiday will be five days Monday to Friday, which divides the term as far as possible into two equal parts. Where there are an odd number of weeks the second half term will be the shorter of the two.
  - The Easter break will be fixed at the first two weeks in April to support the creation of more even half terms.
  - The Spring Bank half term will be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls as the last Monday in May.
  - Where a term is of uneven length, the second half term will be the shorter of the two.

## **3. Neighbouring Authorities**

- Barnsley is consulting on the traditional calendar only. Doncaster and Rotherham are consulting on the fixed Easter model and the traditional model set out below. Derbyshire has already set the traditional calendar.
- We do try and agree a common calendar with all neighbouring authorities because we know that many parents working in Sheffield live in other authorities and their children attend school there. No dates have been finalised yet for Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.

### **○ Traditional Model**

- 4 November 2019 to 20 December 2019 (35 days)
- 6 January 2020 to 14 February 2020 (30 days)
- 24 February 2020 to 3 April 2020 (30 days)
- 20 April 2020 to 22 May 2020 (24 days)
- 1 June 2020 to 20 July 2020 (36 days)

### **○ Fixed Easter Model**

- 4 November 2019 to 20 December 2019 (35 days)

- 6 January 2020 to 14 February 2020 (30 days)
- 24 February 2020 to 27 March 2020 (25 days)
- 14 April 2020 to 22 May 2020 (28 days)
- 1 June 2020 to 20 July 2020 (37 days)

- **Bank Holidays**

- 1 January 2020
- 10 April 2020 (Good Friday)
- 13 April 2020 (Easter Monday)
- 4 May 2020
- 25 May 2020 (spring bank holiday)
- 31 August 2020 (summer bank holiday)

#### **4. School Holidays**

##### **a. October Half Term**

5. Traditional: 28 October – 1 November
6. Fixed Easter: 28 October – 1 November

##### **a. Christmas**

7. Traditional: 23 December – 3 January
8. Fixed Easter: 23 December – 3 January

##### **a. February Half Term**

9. Traditional: 17 – 21 February
10. Fixed Easter: 17 – 21 February

##### **a. Easter**

11. Traditional: 6 – 17 April
12. Fixed Easter: 30 March – 10 April

##### **a. Spring Bank**

13. Traditional: 25 – 29 May
14. Fixed Easter: 25 – 29 May

#### **5. What Happens Next?**

- Following consultation, the final decision will be made by the Lead Cabinet Member. The decision and approved calendar will be posted on the Council website.
- If you have any comments on the proposed school calendar or transition dates we should be pleased to receive them by 2 March 2018.
- You are invited to respond in a number of ways:

- Email your comments to: [Jayne.Johnson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.Johnson@sheffield.gov.uk)
- By fax to Jayne Johnson on 0114 273 4155
- By post to:
  - Jayne Johnson, Senior Admissions Officer, Inclusion & Learning Service, Floor 5, North Wing, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 2BE.
  - We look forward to hearing from you.
  - Yours sincerely
  - John Bigley

Manager, Admissions and Access