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Dear Colleague

School Term and Holiday Dates Academic Year 2020/21 - Consultation

Please find attached a **draft calendar** for the 2020/21 school year for consultation. **Please do not use this calendar as it is purely for this consultation process and has not been agreed.** The final calendar will be agreed following the consultation sometime in March 2019. The final agreed calendar will then be sent to all schools in the electronic Red Bag, it will also be displayed on our website at this time. It is your responsibility to ensure that you access the calendar once it is available.

As in previous years, we have had the opportunity to broaden our consultation process to include representatives from our neighbouring authorities and authorities further afield. The majority of neighbouring authorities will be consulting on very similar calendars. There is of course no guarantee that we will all agree the same option but we hope this will lead to more consistent holiday dates between local LA's.

As in previous years the draft calendar identifies 192 days when teachers are available to work. The LA has identified three professional development (PD) days which are highlighted in yellow, leaving it to the discretion of the Headteacher of each school to determine a further two.

This calendar would ensure more consistency for parents as well other services such as the school meals service and Integrated Passenger Transport (IPT) when providing home to school transport. This would also reduce the number of vehicles travelling to and from school which reduces the Authority's carbon footprint. Fixed training days would also:

- Enable schools to organise/participate in joint training within localities/families of schools/clusters – cross phase or phase specific
- Enable the Local Authority to organise key conferences/courses without the need for withdrawing school staff from timetables
- Enable schools to engage in collaborative planning at whole school and subject level

- Facilitate Subject Network Meetings/Subject Leader Development Meetings and other network meetings at all phases, cutting down on release time from timetabled lessons for subject leaders and other specified members of staff
- Enhance partnership working at all phases
- Enable pupil/student conferences 5-19
- Facilitate intervention work with students
- Facilitate HE input into schools on a wider basis – parental meetings etc.
- Improve attendance/achievement – easier for parents of more than one child
- Rationalise transport arrangements and reduce costs
- Enable parents to plan child care regardless of whether their children attend primary or secondary schools.

Can you please consider the calendar and feedback any comments you may have by using the following link. **Due to an error on the calendar the closing date has been extended. Please see amended calendar for your consideration.** The new closing date for this consultation will be **Friday 15th March 2019.**

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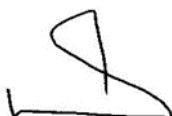
Can I remind you again that it had been intended that when the Deregulation Act 2015 came into force, the education clauses would allow all schools to vary school dates. However the provision within the Act to give governing bodies of community, voluntary controlled, community special school, and maintained nursery schools in England the responsibility for setting their own school term and holiday dates was not commenced. These schools will not therefore be given the power to set their own term dates.

The Government will not prescribe how governing bodies of foundation and voluntary aided schools and local authorities should exercise their responsibilities but confirm that they must set dates in line with the requirements of the length of the school year regulations of the “School teachers pay and conditions document”.

Where governing bodies feel there is a compelling need to change the pattern of the school year from previous years they will be free to do so. Governing bodies should consider all the practical implications of a proposed change, they must act reasonably, fairly and transparently when setting term dates and they must consider the impact of their decisions on those likely to be directly affected by them including pupils, parents and other interested parties.

Thank you for your assistance with this consultation, should you have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



William Burchill
Admissions and Transport Manager