



14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Thank you for your response regarding our proposal to change the term dates. The delay in responding formally was to allow time for both Governors and our board of Trustees to fully consider all of the responses received. As a school, with a total student and staff body of over 900, we had a total of 43 responses. 28 of those were in support of the proposals, 6 were against the proposals and 9 posed questions or alternative suggestions, all of which were considered.

After careful consideration by both the Governors and the Trust Board, the decision has been made to adjust our term dates in line with the proposal for 2019/20.

The term dates are detailed below for your reference and will be uploaded to our website with immediate effect.

Confirmed Term Dates;

**Autumn Term**

Staff Development days:	Monday & Tuesday, 2-3 September 2019
Term commences for all students:	Wednesday, 4 September 2019
Half Term:	Monday, 21 October – Friday 1 November 2019
Staff Development days:	Wednesday 30 – Friday 1 November 2019
Term commences:	Monday, 4 November 2019
Last day of term:	Friday, 20 December 2019

**Spring Term**

Term commences:	Monday, 6 January 2020
Half Term:	Monday, 17 – Friday, 21 February 2020
Term commences:	Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
Last day of term	Friday, 27 March 2020

**Summer Term**

Term commences:	Tuesday, 14 April 2020
May Day Bank Holiday:	Friday, 8 May 2020 ( <b><i>This is a National Change</i></b> )
Half Term:	Monday, 25 – Friday, 29 May 2020
Last day of term:	Friday, 17 July 2020

For your reference, some of the most common points raised in the response to consultation are responded to below:



***Where have the additional days come from and will other holidays change as a result?***

I can confirm that the summer holiday next year will not change as a result of this two week half term. We will still finish on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as planned. The days for the second week of the Autumn half term have come from two occasional days that schools are permitted to include within the school year and three non-pupil days. Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September will remain as non-pupil days.

***I thought schools were legally required to educate students for 190 days.***

Our flexibility to make changes to our term dates comes from the law pertaining to Academies.

*“The law regulating the school day and school year **applies only** to schools maintained by a local authority and special schools not maintained by a local authority. This law **does not** apply to academies and Free Schools.”*

***What evidence was used to make this decision?***

The evidence came from our work and consultation with other schools both locally and nationally as well as from feedback that we have received from local GP's and Healthcare providers where the attendance and wellbeing of students was a concern during this long term particularly.

***Why can't this additional holiday be added to the May half term or summer holiday rather than October?***

The length of the half term was the prime consideration for the change to the term dates in October. In addition, the summer term dates and associated holiday is directed by the external examination calendar of which we have no control.

***Will there be provision for those students where childcare is an issue to attend school on the last three days of the October half term when staff are in school?***

In recognition of the potential impact on childcare that this decision may have, we will consider the possibility of opening the school to students whose families face this challenge to complete one off learning episodes, where staffing allows, or to take part in externally led provision.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the school.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Aimee Mitchell  
Headteacher