

Decision Record – School Term and Holiday Dates 2014/15

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Heather Timms Children & Schools
Date of Decision (not before: 21 st June 2013)	21/06/2013

Decision Taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, approve the proposed School Term and Holiday Dates for the 2014/15 academic year, as set out below.

Reasons for Decisions

Discussions with neighbouring authorities suggest that only a few are considering adopting a calendar similar to that put forward by the LGA.

The traditional Warwickshire calendar has an Easter Break where the Easter festival is held at the midpoint of the holiday, which is a week earlier than the one suggested by the LGA. It does, however, allow for an earlier end to the academic year, while the half-term and Christmas breaks align with those suggested by the LGA.

As a result of the consultation exercise, twenty two comments were received in response. Three of these were in favour of a calendar based around the LGA model, whilst nineteen were in favour of a calendar which adhered to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.

Whilst a traditional Warwickshire calendar will lead to an Easter break which may differ to some of our neighbours, there are a number of other advantages including:

- a) Term dates are set for complete weeks – in the main no split-start and end weeks.
- b) Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 29 August 2014 and Monday 5 January 2015). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these dates.
- c) Half-terms in line with those suggested by the LGA and which have been adopted by our neighbours.
- d) A ten-day Easter Break, but one week earlier than that set by the LGA, and which may therefore be likely to differ from our neighbours.
- e) The academic year ends on a Friday and allows for a six-week summer break.

It is therefore recommended that the traditional Warwickshire calendar shown as Option A in the decision report be adopted for the 2014/15 academic year.

Background Information

The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Academies, Foundation and Aided Schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. No information has yet been received from such schools regarding likely calendars for the 2014/15 academic year.

Between 18 February 2013 and 19 April 2013 a consultation exercise was carried out by Warwickshire County Council into possible calendars for the 2014/15 academic year. A copy of the consultation document is attached.

Two possible calendars were put forward for consideration:

- **Appendix A** shows Option A which adheres to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.
- **Appendix B** shows Option B which is based around the calendar suggested by the Local Government Association (LGA).

Financial Implications

None given.

Report Author	Timothy Howram
Head of Service	Sarah Callaghan
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Heather Timms

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	N/a
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered - please attach a copy of the report

Published proposed decision report by report author.

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None.

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms
 All Strategic Directors
 Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard
 Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton
 Equality – Minakshee Patel
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson