

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the  
Portfolio Holder Education and Learning  
on or after 1 July 2014**

**Outcome of Consultation – School Term and Holiday Dates  
2015/16**

**Recommendation**

That the Portfolio Holder approves school term and holiday dates for the 2015/16 academic year as set out below.

1. The Local Authority is responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.
2. Between 16th April 2014 and 16th May 2014 a consultation exercise was carried out by Warwickshire County Council into possible calendars for the 2015/16 academic year. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix A**.
3. Two possible calendars were put forward for consideration. **Option A** adheres to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire. **Option B** is based around the calendar suggested by the Local Government Association (LGA).
4. Discussions with neighbouring authorities suggest that only a few are considering adopting a calendar similar to that put forward by the LGA.
5. 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.
6. As a result of the consultation exercise, 39 comments were received in response. 14 of these were in favour of a calendar based around the LGA model, whilst 25 were in favour of a calendar which adhered to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.

7. 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 4th September 2015 and Monday 4th January 2016). 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.
8. It is therefore recommended that the traditional Warwickshire calendar shown as **Option A** of the attached document be adopted for the 2015/16 academic year.

## Supporting papers

### Consultation Document

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
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My ref: TH027/HH



Headteachers and Chair of Governors of All  
Warwickshire Schools

All other parties with an interest in School Term  
and Holiday Dates

**People Group**

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Dear Colleague

**SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES- ACADEMIC  
YEAR 2015/16**

**Action Summary:**

**Title:** School Term and Holiday Dates- Academic Year 2015/16  
**For the attention of:** All Headteachers and other interested parties  
**Action required:** Comments are invited on the proposed calendars for the Academic Year 2015/16 and should be submitted by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

**Introduction**

As you know the Local Authority is currently responsible for setting school term and holiday dates for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. This paper contains details of suggested school term and holiday dates for the Academic Year 2015/16. Included are two suggested calendars and we would like to hear your views. After consideration of the comments received a recommendation will be made to the Portfolio Holder for People Group.

A copy of this paper will be made available to the public via the Warwickshire County Council website and schools are encouraged to share the proposals with students and their parents. Comments are also invited from professional associations and Warwickshire's Augmented Teachers' Panel (ATP).

**Traditional principles used in Warwickshire**

I am mindful that when setting school term and holiday dates for Warwickshire schools, a number of 'guiding principles' are used, and every effort is always made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

- A calendar of 195 days is set from which the five Teacher Days are taken.
- Two of the five Teacher Days are defined by the Local Authority- one at the start of the Autumn and Spring terms. The other three are set by schools.
- Friday of August Bank Holiday week is a Teacher Day in Option A but, by agreement at school level, staff do not have to attend if they commit to activities at other times. Most schools are therefore closed during this week.

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- A three-weekend break at both Christmas and at Easter.
- Summer holiday is near to six weeks as a minimum, if possible.

I am aware that in attempting to adhere to the above principles, Warwickshire's calendars have in recent years differed to those set by neighbouring authorities. This has led to criticism from schools as well as parents. To that end, I have met with colleagues from the West Midlands Authorities to secure agreement on the proposal of the term time dates.

In setting a calendar for the 2015/16 academic year, our aim is to consult as widely as possible. It should be noted though that a calendar which matches our neighbours does require a compromise in the form of a late end to the academic year. A calendar which adheres to the above principles is possible, but may lead to an Easter Break which is later than in neighbouring authorities.

### **Options for 2015/16**

OPTION A which is the preferred option, adheres to all of the key principles we traditionally try to accommodate. The key features are as follows:

- Term dates are set for complete weeks- in the main no split start and end weeks
- Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and Monday 4 January 2016). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these dates.
- Half-terms in line with those suggested by the Local Government Association (LGA) and which have been adopted by our neighbours.
- 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.
- The academic year ends on a Friday and allows for a six week summer break.

The LGA however, has now published a suggested calendar for the 2015/16 academic year. The calendar shown as Option B is based around the one suggested by the LGA and has the following features:

- A late start to the academic year with no teacher training day during August Bank Holiday week.
- The half-term breaks have been accepted in principle by our neighbouring Local Authorities.
- A ten day break at Christmas.
- An eleven day Easter Break with a start date of Good Friday 25 March 2016.
- An academic year which finishes late in July and mid-week.

### **Next steps**

Comments on the two suggested calendars are invited. These should be sent to **Helen Hutson, Learning and Achievement Administrator, Saltisford Office Park, Ansell Way, Warwick, CV34 4UL** or [helenhutson@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:helenhutson@warwickshire.gov.uk)


**Comments should be submitted by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

*continued...*

All comments received will be considered before a recommendation is put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder. The calendar for the 2015/16 academic year will then be published in late June.

Should you have any questions regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Howram". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Timothy Howram**  
**Education Planning Officer**

## Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2015/16 - OPTION A

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>August 2015</b>						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>September 2015</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>October 2015</b>							
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>November 2015</b>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>December 2015</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>January 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>February 2016</b>							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29							

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>March 2016</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>April 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>May 2016</b>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>June 2016</b>							
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>July 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>August 2016</b>							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
<b>September 2016</b>							
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

HalfTerm	Days
1	36
2	35
3	30
4	20
5	39
6	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>

- School Holiday
- Public Holiday
- Teacher Day

## Warwickshire School Term and Holiday Dates - 2015/16 - OPTION B

**M T W T F S S**

<b>August 2015</b>						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

**M T W T F S S**

<b>September 2015</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

**M T W T F S S**

<b>October 2015</b>							
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

**M T W T F S S**

<b>November 2015</b>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30							

**M T W T F S S**

<b>December 2015</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

**M T W T F S S**

<b>January 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

**M T W T F S S**

<b>February 2016</b>							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29							

**M T W T F S S**

<b>March 2016</b>							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				

**M T W T F S S**

<b>April 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30		

**M T W T F S S**

<b>May 2016</b>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

**M T W T F S S**

<b>June 2016</b>							
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				

**M T W T F S S**

<b>July 2016</b>							
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

**M T W T F S S**

<b>August 2016</b>							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					

**M T W T F S S**

<b>September 2016</b>							
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

**HalfTerm Days**

1	35
2	35
3	30
4	24
5	34
6	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>

- School Holiday
- Public Holiday
- Teacher Day