

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools - Decision to be taken not before 25 May 2012

Outcome of Consultation School Term and Holiday Dates 2013/14

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder approves School Term and Holiday Dates for the 2013/14 academic year as set out below.

1.0 Key Issues

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 2013/14 academic year.

2.0 Proposal and Consultation

- 2.1 Between 2 February 2012 and 23 March 2012 a consultation exercise was carried out by Warwickshire County Council into possible calendars for the 2013/14 academic year. A copy of the consultation document is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Two possible calendars were put forward for consideration. The first of these is based around the calendar suggested by the LGA (Local Government Association), attached as **Appendix B**. The other adheres to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire, this is attached as **Appendix C**.
- 2.3 Discussions with neighbouring authorities suggest that they are likely to adopt a calendar very similar to that put forward by the LGA.
- 2.4 The traditional Warwickshire calendar has an Easter Break which is a week later than the one suggested by the LGA, with the Easter weekend sitting in the middle of the break. 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.
- 2.5 As a result of the consultation exercise, forty two comments were received in response. Eight of these were in favour of a calendar based around the LGA model, while thirty four were in favour of a calendar which adhered to the principles traditionally used to devise calendars in Warwickshire.

- 2.6 While a traditional Warwickshire calendar will lead to an Easter break which would differ to our neighbours, there are a number of other advantages (see above).
- 2.7 It is therefore recommended that the traditional Warwickshire calendar shown at Appendix C of the attached document be adopted for the 2013/14 academic year.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision/Next steps

- 3.1 The Portfolio Holder is asked to approve the dates as set out in Appendix C.
- 3.2 If approval is given, the dates will then be made available via the Warwickshire County Council website and distributed more widely as appropriate.
- .

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Timothy Howram	01926 742256 timothyhowram@warwickshire.gov.uk
Head of Service	Mark Gore	markgore@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Wendy Fabbro	
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Timms	

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all
Warwickshire Schools

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

People Group

Timothy Howram
Learning and Achievement
Saltisford Office Park
Ansell Way
Warwick
CV34 4UL

Tel: 01926 742256
Fax: 01926 742083
e-mail: timothyhowram@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.warwickshire.gov.uk
2nd February, 2012

Dear Colleague,

School Term and Holiday Dates

Action Summary:

Title: School Term and Holiday Dates – 2013/14 Academic Year.
For the attention of: All Headteachers and other interested parties.
Action required: Comments are invited on the proposed calendars for the 2013/14 academic year and should be submitted by Friday 23 March 2012.

Introduction

As you know the Local Authority is 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 2013/14 academic year. 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 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.
- 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 2013/14 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 2013/14

The Local Government Association has now published a suggested calendar for the 2012/13 academic year. The calendar shown at **Appendix A** 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.
- An eight day break at Christmas.
- An eleven day Easter Break with a return the day after Easter Monday.
- An academic year which finishes late in July and mid-week.

An alternative to the above calendar is shown at **Appendix B** which is the preferred option. This adheres to all of the key principles we traditionally try to accommodate, but requires an earlier, and shorter break at Easter. The key features are as follows:

- Term dates are set for complete weeks – in the main no split start and end weeks.
- No teaching during August Bank Holiday week.
- Two Teacher Days set by the Local Authority (Friday 30 August 2013 and Monday 06 January 2014). Schools would be free to disaggregate the first of these days.
- Half-terms in line with those suggested by the 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 therefore likely to differ from our neighbours.
- The academic year ends on a Friday and allows for a six week summer break.

Next steps

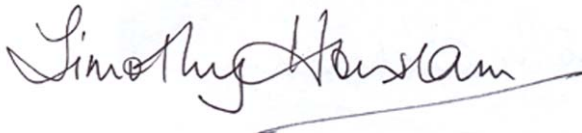
Comments on the two suggested calendars are invited. These should be sent to Timothy Howram, Education Planning Officer, Saltisford Office Park, Ansell Way, Warwick, CV34 4UL or timothyhowram@warwickshire.gov.uk

Comments should be submitted by Friday 23 March 2012.

All comments received will be considered before a recommendation is put forward to the relevant Portfolio Holder. The calendar for the 2013/14 academic year will then be published in late May.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Timothy Howram', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Timothy Howram
Education Planning Officer

Draft School Term Dates: 2013/2014 Academic Year Option 2

A

Aug-2013					
Monday		5	12	19	26
Tuesday		6	13	20	27
Wednesday		7	14	21	28
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29
Friday	2	9	16	23	30
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31
Sunday	4	11	18	25	

Sep-2013					
Monday		2	9	16	23
Tuesday		3	10	17	24
Wednesday		4	11	18	25
Thursday	*5		12	19	26
Friday		6	13	20	27
Saturday		7	14	21	28
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29

Oct-2013					
Monday		30	7	14	21
Tuesday		1	8	15	22
Wednesday		2	9	16	23
Thursday		3	10	17	24
Friday		4	11	18	25#
Saturday		5	12	19	26
Sunday		6	13	20	27

Nov-2013					
Monday		4*		11	18
Tuesday			5	12	19
Wednesday			6	13	20
Thursday			7	14	21
Friday	1		8	15	22
Saturday	2		9	16	23
Sunday	3		10	17	24

35 day
term Oct
to Dec

Dec-2013					
Monday		2	9	16	23
Tuesday		3	10	17	24
Wednesday		4	11	18	25
Thursday		5	12	19	26
Friday		6	13	20#	27
Saturday		7	14	21	28
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29

30 day term
Feb to April

Jan-2014					
Monday		30 *6		13	20
Tuesday		31		7	14
Wednesday		1		8	15
Thursday	2*			9	16
Friday		3		10	17
Saturday		4		11	18
Sunday		5		12	19

Feb-2014					
Monday		3	10	17	24*
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14#	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	
Sunday	2	9	16	23	

Mar-2014					
Monday		3	10	17	24
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Thursday		6	13	20	27
Friday		7	14	21	28
Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

Apr-2014					
Monday		31		7	14
Tuesday		1		8	15
Wednesday		2		9	16
Thursday		3		10	17
Friday	4#			11	18
Saturday		5		12	19
Sunday		6		13	20

May-2014					
Monday		4		12	19
Tuesday			5	13	20
Wednesday			6	14	21
Thursday	1		7	15	22
Friday	2		8	16	23#
Saturday	3		9	17	24
Sunday	4		10	18	25

23 day
term April to
June

Jun-2014					
Monday		2*		9	16
Tuesday			3	10	17
Wednesday			4	11	18
Thursday			5	12	19
Friday			6	13	20
Saturday			7	14	21
Sunday	1		8	15	22

Jul-2014					
Monday		30		7	14
Tuesday		1		8	15
Wednesday		2		9	16
Thursday		3		10	17
Friday		4		11	18
Saturday		5		12	19
Sunday		6		13	20

August/September 2014					
Monday		4	11	18	25
Tuesday		5	12	19	26
Wednesday		6	13	20	27
Thursday		7	14	21	28 4*
Friday	1	8	15	22	29
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31

Term Lengths

Sept to Oct half term	37
October to Christmas	35
Jan to Feb half term	32
Feb to Easter	30
Easter to June half term	23
June to end of term	38

Key:

Bank Holiday

School Holiday

* First day after break

last day before break

Bank Holidays

- 26 August 2013 (Summer Bank Holiday)
- 25 & 26 December 2013 (Christmas Day Hol)
- 1 January 2014 (New Years Day Hol)
- 18 April 2014 (Good Friday)
- 21 April 2014 (Easter Monday)
- 5 May 2014 (May Day)
- 26 May 2014 (Spring Bank Holiday)
- 25 August 2014 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Very provisional calendar for 2013-14

APPENDIX C

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
August 2013						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	19	19	19	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
September 2013						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
October 2013						
	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
November 2013						
				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
December 2013						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
January 2014						
		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
February 2014						
					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		

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
March 2014						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
April 2014						
	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
May 2014						
			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
June 2014						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
July 2014						
	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
August 2014						
				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
September 2014						
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					

Half Term Days

1	41
2	35
3	30
4	35
5	19
6	35
Total	195

	School Holiday
	Public Holiday
	Teacher Day