

# Portfolio Holder Decision – School Term Dates 2022/23

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Education &amp; Learning</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>15 January 2021</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

## Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning approves the school term and holiday dates for the 2022/23 academic year as set out in the published report.

## Reasons for decisions

The Local Authority (LA) is currently 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. There is collaboration between the LA and Academies, Foundation and Aided schools which have been invited to consult on the term dates and have generally followed the Local Authority's pattern of terms and holiday dates.

## Background information

A number of guiding principles have traditionally been used to set the pattern of terms and holidays and effort is made to adhere to as many of the following as possible:

1. 195 days from which five teacher training days are taken
2. Two of the five teacher training days are defined by the local authority, one of these days is at the start of the autumn and spring terms, the other three to be set by schools
3. Complete weeks when setting holiday dates wherever possible
4. A three-weekend break at Christmas and Easter
5. A summer break as close to six weeks as possible

6. A pattern which is as consistent as possible with neighbouring authorities.

On occasion, feedback is received relating to concerns regarding the length of the Autumn term. This model is agreed with the majority of our Regional and neighbouring authorities. Warwickshire County Council will continue to explore alternative options and raise the matter at the next regional meeting.

A consultation exercise ran between the 19th October and 27th November 2020; this consultation was carried out with all state-funded schools and academies, governing bodies and union representatives.

The term dates of neighbouring authorities affect the preferences of some schools, mainly those close to authority borders. Where neighbouring authorities had published their term dates for 2022/23, these were included in the consultation information. Coventry City Council is a significant neighbour for many Warwickshire schools and is currently consulting on the same term dates as WCC.

### **Proposal**

Two options for the 2022/23 academic year were put forward for consideration. Option 1 comprised the calendar as previously proposed by the West Midlands Regional School Term Date Group as an option for all regional local authorities. Option 2 differed by having the Spring half-term holiday a week earlier and the Summer half-term holiday a week later. This results in more even term lengths, but the Summer half-term holiday being later is problematic for Secondary schools in timing exams and results in a preceding four-day week due to a bank holiday.

#### Option 1:

- Term 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- Half term holiday 1 – 24<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Term 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- Half term holiday 2 – 20<sup>th</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Term 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> April to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- Half term holiday 3 – 29<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Consultees were made aware that Option 1 dates have been adopted by Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham authorities.

#### Option 2:

As above, except:

- Half term holiday 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> February to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Term 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- Half term holiday 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

In both options, the two Teacher Training days set by the LA were proposed as the first days of each of the first two terms, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. A universal Secondary School Induction Day was also proposed for 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Calendars of both options are provided in the Background papers.

In total, 55 responses were received to this consultation.

In summary:

- Option 1, 27 (49%)
- Option 2, 18 (33%)
- No preference, 10 (18%)

All respondents who expressed a preference, except one, agreed with the proposed Secondary School Induction Day Date.

Specific comments received can be summarised as:

Option 1	Option 2
<i>Aligns with Neighbouring Authorities.</i>	<i>Provides more even term dates. Moving date of May half term into June could be problematic with national exams</i>

**It is recommended to adopt Option 1 as it received more positive support in the consultation. The Secondary Induction Day will be set as Wednesday 5th July 2023.**

## Financial implications

None

## Environmental implications

None

<b>Report Author</b>	Emma Basden-Smith, Rosalind Currie, Bern Timings emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk, rosalindcurrie@warwickshire.gov.uk, berntimings@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Ian Budd
<b>Lead Director</b>	Strategic Director for Communities
<b>Lead Member</b>	Portfolio Holder for Education & Learning

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	<i>No</i>
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	<i>No</i>
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	<i>No</i>

<b>List of background papers</b>	
1	Options 1 & 2 for 2022/23 term dates – as consultation
2	Final Calendar recommended for approval.

<b>Members and officers consulted and informed</b>
<p>Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield</p> <p>Corporate Board – Mark Ryder</p> <p>Legal – Ian Marriott</p> <p>Finance – Virginia Rennie</p> <p>Equality –</p> <p>Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse</p> <p>Councillors –</p> <p>Local Member(s): Cllr Colin Hayfield Cllr Jeff Morgan Cllr Yousef Dahmash Cllr Chris Williams Cllr Corinne Davies Cllr Jerry Roodhouse</p>