

From: Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

To: Shelina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Alterations to the School Year 2021/22

Decision Number: 21/00092

Past Pathway: Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee – 16 Nov 2021 of Paper

Electoral Division: All

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report summarises the outcome of the consultation with LA schools regarding the additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to:

- (i) End the Summer term a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In England, local authority-maintained schools operating according to the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) must open for 195 days.
- 1.2 Of these, a maximum of 190 days involve teaching children and young people. The remaining five days are non-teaching days when teachers may be asked to undertake other duties related to their role as a teacher. These are often known as in-service training (INSET) days.
- 1.3 The school term dates for Kent community, voluntary-controlled, community special or maintained nursery schools are determined by KCC and the local authority is the employer.
- 1.4 For the academic year 2021/22, in acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the DfE has agreed the following position to assist schools and local authorities in their planning:

'The Spring Bank Holiday in 2022 will be moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional bank holiday on Friday 3 June will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

'Many schools will already be on their half-term breaks in the week commencing 31 May, but where the additional bank holiday falls in term time, schools and local authorities (LAs) should observe the bank holidays on 2/3 June and may therefore need to prepare and make any amendments to their published term dates for the academic year 2021/22.'

'We [the DfE] have laid regulations to reduce the minimum number of sessions schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/2022 and enable everyone to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on 3 June 2022.'

'The Department will review the necessary legislation and, as far as the STPCD is concerned, make an amendment for the September 21 version that reduces the number of days that teachers need to be available to work from 190 (+5 INSET days) to 189 (+5 INSET days) and will also reduce the number of directed hours by 6.5. The total school year will therefore be 194 days.'

In essence, teachers will teach one less day for the academic year 2021/22, down from 195 to 194 (including INSET days), or down from 190 to 189 (excluding INSET days) across 1,258.5 hours as opposed to 1,265 hours of directed time. An extra day of holiday will therefore need to be allocated by KCC as the employer.

2. Proposal

2.1 KCC has considered various options:

- A. Add an extra day to the Christmas break for 2021, as the holidays end on 3rd January (Bank Holiday Monday) with schools returning on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Schools would therefore return on Wednesday 5th January 2022 instead.
- B. Add an extra day to the end of the Easter break so that schools return on Wednesday 20th April instead of Tuesday 19th April 2022.
- C. Add an extra day to the Spring Bank Holiday in 2022, so that term begins on Tuesday 7th June instead of Monday 6th.
- D. End the Summer term a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

2.2 Consideration was given to the first two options, however giving an extra day before the Platinum Jubilee may not be in the spirit of celebrating the longevity of the Queen's reign. A further consideration is that mock exams are often held in January and schools may not welcome an extra day.

2.3 Option C was ruled out as, similar to option A, exams fall after this holiday and schools are unlikely to welcome an additional day off.

2.4 A further consideration is that many schools have already planned for the year ahead, and by adding an extra day to any of the holidays before the end of the summer term may prove challenging.

3. Other Local Authorities

3.1 Following a direct email to the officers responsible for setting the term dates for OLAs to establish their planned date, it seems that there are a variety of dates being taken. However, the majority of LAs who have responded, including East Sussex, West Sussex and Hampshire, are choosing to end the summer term a day earlier.

4. Consultation

4.1 A two-week consultation on option D was circulated to Local Authority Head Teachers, Governors, Unions and the Kent Association of Head Teachers to gain their views on the planned shortening of term 6.

4.2 46 responses were received, 45 were from Headteachers and one from a school governor. 25 were in favour of the proposal and 21 against. The majority of those against the proposal wished to choose which date was appropriate to take off.

4.3 As the majority of Headteachers who responded agreed with the proposal, KCC has decided to recommend to the Cabinet Member that the Summer term ends a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 KCC as the employer must administer these changes enacted by the DfE

6. Equalities implications

6.1 A full EqIA has been completed and presented to the Cabinet member and CYPE Cabinet Committee, as part of the democratic process.

7. Recommendation

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to:

(i) End the Summer term a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

Background Documents

10.1 Term Dates 2021-22

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/term-dates#tab-1>

11. Contact details

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