

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

**To:** Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

**Subject:** School Term Dates for 2023-24 and Update on Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

**Decision number:** 22/00035

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 May 2022

**Electoral Division:** All

**Recommendation:** The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to take the decision to:

- (1) Agree the school term dates for KCC community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2023-24

## 1. Background

- 1.1 KCC is responsible for setting term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools, while governing bodies of foundation and voluntary aided schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Academies and free schools also have the freedom to decide their dates and length of terms.
- 1.2 In previous years the Local Government Association (LGA) has coordinated the preparation of a draft standard school year. However, the LGA has decided to stop coordinating the development of these draft models, because only around 40% of areas are now following the standard school year, as more academies and free schools determine the term dates for their schools.
- 1.3 Over a school year, pupils are required to attend for 190 days/380 sessions. In total, teachers may be required to be available for work on up to 195 days, with the additional days specified by individual schools as non-contact days. Schools may also require teachers to work additional hours before or after school sessions, as an alternative to full non-contact days, provided that any teacher is not required to work in aggregate more than 1,265 hours during a school year. Schools may therefore choose to require teachers to make up the full equivalent of the 5 non-contact days wholly through additional hours, or use a mixture of additional hours and non-contact days.
- 1.4 In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC carried out a full consultation on the proposed dates. The proposed dates are attached as appendix 1.

## 2. Consultation Process and Proposed Dates

- 2.1 KCC consulted on the proposed term dates for the academic year 2023-24 from 8 March until 19 April 2022. The consultation was circulated to all schools via the e-bulletin and with other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the Diocesan bodies, trade unions and neighbouring local authorities. The general public was also encouraged to participate. Below is a link to the consultation and equality impact assessment: [School Term Dates for 2023/24 | Let's talk Kent](#)
- 2.2 The consultation webpage was visited 3.27k times and the documents downloaded 2.12k times. 163 responses were received with 83 respondents agreeing to the proposal, 68 disagreeing, 3 undecided and 9 not leaving a comment.
- 2.3 Of the responses received to the proposed term dates for 2023-24, which consisted of 87 parents, 7 carers,; 9 Headteachers (including Head of School and a Deputy Head); 18 teachers; 17 school governors; 2 early years settings;1 other Local Authority; 22 other (inc grandparents and charities).
- 2.4 The majority of respondents, 83 out of 163, supported the proposed term dates for 2023-24, while 68 respondents opposed the dates.
- 2.5 Of the 83 respondents who supported the proposed dates, these included 39 parents,14 Headteachers and teachers, 12 school governors; 6 carers; 2 grandparents; 1 other Local Authority; 1 charity and 8 other interested parties.
- 2.6 Of the 68 respondents, who opposed the proposed dates, 42 parents and carers, 15 Headteachers, teachers and support staff, 5 school governors, 2 Early years settings, 4 other interested parties.
- 2.7 The majority of respondents (16) opposing the proposed dates were concerned about the start date of term 1 beginning on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The LGA recommendation is that schools should return as close to the 1<sup>st</sup> September as possible. As the majority of respondents agreed the term dates the proposed dates will remain unchanged.
- 2.8 10 respondents requested shorter summer breaks and longer half terms but no overall agreement as to which ones should be extended. Analysis from the consultation showed that there was no clear agreement on which school breaks to extend.
- 2.9 10 respondents felt that Term 2 ended too soon (15 December 2023). As the majority of respondents agreed the term dates the proposed dates will remain unchanged.
- 2.10 7 respondents requested a two-week break in October 2023. As most respondents agreed with the proposed dates this will remain unchanged.

- 2.11 6 respondents felt that 7 week terms were too long, however, as most respondents agreed with the proposed dates this will remain unchanged.
- 2.12 The remaining responses varied in reasons ranging from: pupils had too many school holidays and the summer break being too short.
- 2.13 Responses were consistent across all respondent types based on their answers to the equality and diversity questions. There were no differences of note between how different people responded about the proposed school terms dates.
- 2.10 Consequently, as the majority of respondents agreed with the proposed dates in 2023-24, Members are asked to agree the recommendation set out below.

### **3. Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 3.1 The EqIA has been reviewed again following the consultation and no updates were required  
[School Term Dates for 2023/24 | Let's talk Kent](#)

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct cost implications arising from the decision on the school calendar. However, if individual foundation, voluntary aided schools, academies or free schools determine a different pattern of term dates, they may incur additional costs in relation to home to school transport, as the authority passes any additional costs on to the schools concerned.

### **5. Legal implication**

- 5.1 if we do not determine the term dates, the LA will not be meeting its statutory obligation.

### **. Recommendation(s)**

**Recommendation:**

6.1 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to take the decision to:

- (1) Agree the school term dates for KCC community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2023-24.

### **Background Documents**

KCC Consultation – School Term dates 2023-24 and Equality Impact Assessment

[School Term Dates for 2023/24 | Let's talk Kent](#)

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