

By: Grahame Ward, Director – Capital Programme & Infrastructure Group
To: Sarah Hohler, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills
Date: February 2011
Subject: **TERM DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEARS 2011 / 2012, 2012 / 13 & 2013 / 2014**

Summary: This report summarises the outcome of consultations on term dates for:

- 2011/12 following changes arising from the celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; and;
- 2012/13 & 2013/14.

It also makes recommendations for the determination of the final calendars for these years.

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) have the freedom to change the length of terms.

(2) This report focuses on the school calendars for academic years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14. While a school calendar has been agreed for 2011/12¹ it has become necessary to revise the calendar following changes arising from the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Following advice from the Local Employers Associations, schools have been advised, separately, about the arrangements regarding the additional bank holiday on Friday 29 April 2011 to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince William to Miss Kate Middleton.

Consultation arrangements, proposals and outcomes

2 (1) Following consultation and discussions at national level, KCC consulted with stakeholders from mid January to early February 2011. Consultation took place with all schools and with other key stakeholders such as governors (including parent groups), the diocesan bodies and trade unions. In the main this was by electronic or written communications, but regular consultative meetings were used where this was possible. KCC also routinely liaises with our neighbouring authorities over future term dates as part of the 2004 local agreement to adopt the standard school year based on six terms from the school year 2005/06.

(2) Appendix one sets out the outcomes from the consultation and recommendations for school calendars for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The appendix also includes a breakdown of responses from stakeholders.

¹ The Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources & Skills, CFE agreed the school calendar for 2011/12 on 8 September 2008.

(3) The proposed calendars for approval are also appendix (see appendix 2).

Resource Implications

3. 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.

Recommendation

4. The Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills is requested TO AGREE the term dates for the school years 2011/12, 2012/13 & 2013/14.

Lynne Miller
Strategic Planning Officer (Democratic Services)
01622 694995
lynne.miller@kent.gov.uk

Background Papers: None.