



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

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Dear Stakeholder

Consultation on a proposed change to term dates commencing September 2020 onwards

Six Academies within the Greenwood Academies Trust (GAT) and two David Ross Academies (DRET) on the East Coast are proposing a change to term dates commencing from September 2020. I am writing to inform you that we will be commencing consultation on 6 January 2020 until 31 January 2020. During the consultation you will have the opportunity to be involved in the process and to put forward any comments you wish to make on the proposal.

The Proposal

As a group of Academies based in a coastal area, we are fully aware of periods in term time when attendance shows a drop due to seasonal working. Working families find it difficult to take time off work as they suffer loss of earnings and by waiting until the season is over, parents can then take advantage of cheaper holidays outside of term time. As a result, we see a rise in unauthorised absence.

Having considered the needs of our local community and explored strategies for improving attendance, the Skegness Infant Academy, Skegness Junior Academy, Beacon Primary Academy, Ingoldmells Academy, Seathorne Primary Academy and the Skegness Academy (all GAT Academies) are collectively considering moving to a model of taking two weeks' holiday in the October half term, commencing in the academic year September 2020. In addition, the Skegness Grammar School and Hogsthorpe Primary Academy (DRET Academies) are considering the same route and we are working together on this proposal to ensure we best meet the needs of our community.

The Rationale

The rationale for the proposal is as follows:

- To have a holiday arrangement that supports our seasonal community and parent work patterns. As a group of Academies, we receive many holiday requests during the October/November period due to the seasonal working hours and to have two weeks at this point in the year may help to increase our overall attendance and reduce the number of holiday requests in term time.
- To create full educational weeks rather than having so many four day weeks. Training days also eat into these.

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- The directive from the School Attendance guidance (July 2019) states 'Schools must meet for at least 380 sessions or 190 days during any school year to educate their pupils.' This would be fulfilled with the equivalent of five training days taken as twilights or a combination of training days and twilights timetabled across the six terms. This would be set up in advance so staff would be aware of what was happening when.
- To allow parents to take full advantage of the cheaper holidays on offer at this time. As this is not a national proposition, prices should remain competitive.
- To break up the long stretch during the Winter period. Children will return fresher maximising learning.
- The planned LCC (Lincolnshire County Council) October half term holiday would be one of the two weeks.
- By providing parents with an option of a two week, out of season break, this could reduce the number of absences and ensure that the pupils get the full educational time.

Attached you will find a list of the proposed terms dates along with a plotted calendar to show you the view of the whole academic year for 2020/21, 2022/22 and 2022/23.

Timeline

The timeline for the proposal is as follows:

- Consultation period - 6 January to 31 January 2020
- Analysis of responses and feedback - 3 February – 10 February 2020
- Inform stakeholders of final decision – after February half term
- Change to be in place with effect from September 2020

Consultation period

The consultation period will be 4 weeks and will commence on Monday 6 January 2020 at 9am and end on Friday 31 January 2020 at 5pm and we look forward to receiving your views.

How to give your views

On **Wednesday 15th January 2020** there will be a drop in session for parents, carers and stakeholders to attend. This will be held at the Skegness Academy at 5.30-7.00pm. The aim of the session is to allow stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the proposal and give their views. Members of the People Directorate will be available with Wayne Norrie, Chief Executive, to answer any questions that may arise.

If you are unable to attend the session and wish to submit your views, please email them to consultation@greenwoodacademes.org by 5pm on Friday 31 January 2020.

Information and updates will be posted on each of the Academy's websites and the Trust's website www.greenwoodacademies.org under the news sections.

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Decision-making following consultation

Following the consultation period, the Greenwood Academies Trust will review the responses and confirm the outcome of the consultation.

We do hope that you will support this proposal and I would like to thank you for your continued support to our East Coast Academies.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Norrie', written in a cursive style.

Wayne Norrie
Chief Executive Officer

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Proposed Dates

2020-21

*Tuesday 1st September- Training Day (**SKA's first day of the new term)*

Autumn

Wednesday 2nd September - Friday 23rd October 2020

Monday 9th November – Friday 18th December 2020

Spring

Monday 4th January - Friday 12th February 2021 (***SKA's first day of the new term is Tuesday 5th January*)

Monday 22nd February - Thursday 1st April 2021

Summer

Monday 19th April - Friday 28th May 2021

Monday 7th June - Thursday 22nd July 2021

*(**SKA (Skegness Academy) training days are 30th and 31st August, 4th January, other East Coast primary Academies to plan **Twilight sessions in each term equivalent to 20 hours training equating to 4 hours per term (across the remaining 5 terms) to be pre-booked by the individual academy.**)*

2021-22

Wednesday 1st September 2021 - Training day

Autumn

Thursday 2nd September - Friday 22nd October 2021

Monday 8th November - Monday 20th December 2021

Spring

Tuesday 4th January - Friday 11th February 2022

Monday 21st February - Friday 1st April 2022

Summer

Tuesday 19th April - Friday 27th May 2022

Monday 6th June - Friday 22nd July 2022

2022-2023

Thursday 1st September & Friday 2nd September 2022 – Training days

Autumn

Monday 5th September - Friday 21st October 2022

Monday 7th November - Tuesday 20th December 2022

Spring

Tuesday 3rd January - Friday 10th February 2023

Monday 20th February - Friday 31st March 2023

Summer

Monday 17th April - Friday 26th May 2023

Monday 5th June - Friday 21st July 2023

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