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11th December 2017

Dear Parents & Carers,

Consultation on proposed changes to term dates

We would like to consult with you regarding possible changes to our academic year from September 2018. In summary the proposal is as follows:

- The Easter break will be renamed as the Spring Break. This will always be the first two full weeks in April, therefore allowing some regularity to this holiday break each year.
- Easter will always be observed via the Bank Holidays for Good Friday and Easter Monday.
- To introduce a two week half term break during the autumn term, rather than the one week break currently in place.
- To retain the current 4 Staff Training (Inset) days throughout the year when staff are required to attend school to complete in-service training.

A number of local independent schools currently operate a two week half term break in the autumn term and an increasing number of schools have adopted a change to their term dates with regards to a Spring break. Schools which have introduced a two week half-term report the following benefits:

- Increased focus and progress by pupils in the autumn term.
- Reduced instances of pupil and teacher sickness and absence.
- Term time and holiday breaks are more equally spread over the year

We recognise that the autumn term is a long term for pupils and staff; we believe that taking steps to address this will be in the interests of staff and pupils' physical, emotional and educational wellbeing. We are also negotiating with several Holiday club providers at present with the aim to introduce Holiday club provision at Avalon to ease any issues with childcare for working parents during the holidays. We would value your feedback and level of interest for this too.

Consultation and timeline:

We would like to consult with staff, parents and carers and other stakeholders on these proposals. The consultation will run from Tuesday 12th December to Friday 12th January 2018. We would ask for your responses to the questions on the attached sheet, regarding the above proposals.

Please return your responses to the consultation to the school office by Friday 12th January 2018. We will share the results of the consultation with you, as soon as possible following the completion date.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this and your response to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

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Headteacher



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The proposed term dates for 2018 -2019 are as follows:

Autumn

Staff INSET: Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th September 2018
Term Dates: Wednesday 5th September to Friday 19th October 2018
Half Term: Monday 22nd October to Friday 2nd November 2018 (Inclusive)
Term Dates: Wednesday 5th November to Friday 14th December 2018

Spring

Staff INSET: Monday 7th January 2019
Term Dates: Tuesday 8th January to Friday 15th February 2019
Half term: Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February 2019
Term Dates: Monday 25th February to Friday 29th March 2019

Summer

Staff INSET: Monday 15th April 2019
Term Dates: Tuesday 16th April to Friday 24th May 2019
Easter Bank Holidays: Friday 19th April and Monday 22nd April 2019
May Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2019
Half Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2019
Term Dates: Monday 3rd June to Wednesday 10th July 2019

Consultation Questions on Proposed Changes to School Term Dates

1. Do you support the proposal of a two week half term break during the autumn term?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Additional comments (Optional)

2. Do you support the proposed term dates for 2018 -2019?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Additional comments (Optional)

Please turn over



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3. Do you support the proposal of a Spring break (first two full weeks of April) rather than the current Easter break?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Additional comments (Optional)

4. Would you be interested in using a Holiday Club, based at Avalon, available for children aged between 2 -11 years?

Yes ☐ Occasionally ☐ No ☐

During which holidays would you use the Holiday club (please tick all that apply)?

Summer ☐ Christmas ☐ Easter ☐ Half terms ☐

Additional comments (Optional)

Please return your responses to the consultation to the school office by Friday 12th January 2018.
We will share the results of the consultation with you, as soon as possible following the completion date.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this and your response to this consultation.