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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



September 2018

Dear Parent,

We are about to publish our term dates for the next academic year, 2019-2020, but before I do I would like to ask your involvement in a consultation on one aspect of the dates. I am keen that our holiday dates fit in with the Surrey State Schools dates, and this will be the case for 2019-20. We will also teach the requisite number of days that we should as a State School of 190 days, this including the Saturdays as half-days.

With the above considerations we have a choice to make as to whether we opt for a longer Autumn Term, or a longer Summer Term. The advantages of choosing a longer Autumn Term as I see it are as below:

- Placing teaching time earlier in the year than the public examinations is much more beneficial for the exam years (years 11-13)
- While RAAS already breaks up earlier than other state schools, this proposal will mean a still earlier finish enhancing the opportunities to facilitate schools trips and for family holidays at a less expensive time.

The obvious disadvantage of moving 4.5 days from the Summer Term to the Autumn Term is the risk that pupils will get too tired over the long Autumn Term, such that the last few weeks are potentially less effective educationally.

On the next page I have produced a table displaying the dates for the two options A and B. Could I ask you please to click on the link below and complete the survey to state which you would prefer of option A (with a shorter summer break and longer winter break) or B (with a longer summer break and shorter winter break), or no preference. There is also a comment box available in case you would like to make any related comments.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CRLWTMP>

Please could I ask you to complete the survey by Friday 28th September. You will understand that we wish to be in a position to decide and then publish our dates as soon as possible.

Last year we decided for an Autumn half-term of 10 days, rather than the full two-weeks for 2018-19. We will review this with parents, but I want to do that review after it has occurred and thus the plan is for 2019-20 to also contain the 10-day half-term. This is true for both options.

With thanks

Mark Dixon
Headmaster

	Option A	Option B
	Shorter Summer Break; Longer Winter Break	Longer Summer Break; Shorter Winter Break
Autumn Term	<p>Wednesday 28 August New Staff INSET Thursday 29 August INSET Friday 30 August INSET</p> <p>Sunday 1 September Boarders Return Monday 2 September Autumn 1 begins (40.5 days) Tuesday 22 October End of term Sunday 3 November Boarders return Monday 4 November Autumn 2 begins (32.5 days) Friday 13 December End of term</p>	<p>Wednesday 28 August New Staff INSET Thursday 29 August INSET Friday 30 August INSET</p> <p>Sunday 1 September Boarders Return Monday 2 September Autumn 1 begins (40.5 days) Tuesday 22 October End of term Sunday 3 November Boarders return Monday 4 November Autumn 2 begins (37 days) Thursday 19 December End of term</p>
Spring Term	<p>Sunday 5 January Boarders return Monday 6 January Spring 1 begins (32.5 days) Friday 14 February End of term Sunday 23 February Boarders return Monday 24 February Spring 2 begins (31.5 days) Thursday 2 April End of term</p> <p>Friday 3 April INSET</p>	<p>Sunday 5 January Boarders return Monday 6 January Spring 1 begins (32.5 days) Friday 14 February End of term Sunday 23 February Boarders return Monday 24 February Spring 2 begins (31.5 days) Thursday 2 April End of term</p> <p>Friday 3 April INSET</p>
Summer Term	<p>Sunday 19 April Boarders return Monday 20 April Summer 1 begins (27 days) Friday 22 May End of term Sunday 31 May Boarders return Monday 1 June Summer 2 begins (26 days) Thursday 2 July End of term</p>	<p>Sunday 19 April Boarders return Monday 20 April Summer 1 begins (27 days) Friday 22 May End of term Sunday 31 May Boarders return Monday 1 June Summer 2 begins (21.5 days) Friday 26 June End of term</p>

All the holiday dates coincide with Surrey holiday dates.