

Appendix 3: Consultation responses from schools and professional bodies

- The consultation received 26 responses, 25 (96%) responses were received from schools, and 1 (4%) from a professional body. It should be noted 1 school responded on behalf of 3 federated Secondary schools and 2 Primary schools responded on behalf of 2 schools in their respective federations.
- The majority of responses 17 (65%) are in favour of option 1, usual summer half term commencing 26 May 2025.
- The remaining 9 (35%) would prefer a later summer half term commencing 2 June 2025.

The comments received are shown below. Several comments refer to other times of the year outside of the scope of this consultation.

15 Responses – as follows:

ID	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Although Version 1 gives an 8.5-week term, it only leaves two days in the final week - 28th & 29th July - which we would disaggregate with 4 twilight Insets spread throughout the year. This will then give staff an 8-week term and a 5-week summer break - I believe 4.5 weeks over the summer will have a negative effect on wellbeing. I have done a similar thing in the past few years where we have had 2-week October break - I have disaggregated 2 Insets days so that the Christmas break has still been two weeks for staff wellbeing. We have found disaggregated Insets to be much more effective and targeted to individual staff need than a whole day, whole school Inset.
2	anonymous	Although Version 1 gives an 8.5-week term, it only leaves two days in the final week - 28th & 29th July - which we would disaggregate with 4 twilight Insets spread throughout the year. This will then give staff an 8-week term and a 5-week summer break - I believe 4.5 weeks over the summer will have a negative effect on wellbeing. I have done a similar thing in the past few years where we have had 2-week October break - I have disaggregated 2 Insets days so that the Christmas break has still been two weeks for staff wellbeing. We have found disaggregated Insets to be much more effective and targeted to individual staff need than a whole day, whole school Inset.
3	anonymous	Two points 1 - Version 2 is NOT possible as this is during examination times. So we would have National examinations going on when the school is closed and staff are not employed. It would simply not be something we could do. Therefore, if this is opted for then Medina College, Carisbrooke College and The Island VI Form would have to close the week commencing 26th May and open on w/c 2nd June. 2 - Not having an option for the two-week October half term is a mistake. By closing for two weeks, we take away 25 hours of face-to-face learning time for Year 11 (and Year 6) students. Outcomes generally are poor for The Island and so why reduce teaching time even more. If this is not altered, it is likely that any Academy will change their holidays to move to a one - week October break. Certainly, if IWEF were to move to be within a MAT then I would recommend to

ID	Name	Responses
		the MAT that IWEF moved to a one-week October break as CEC do anyway. The educational argument for this is very solid. Matthew Parr-Burman
4	anonymous	Version 1 leaves a very long half term until the summer however I am aware that other secondary schools have exams during this half term and realise that this is more appropriate as there would be less interruptions to the exam period.
5	anonymous	We will set version 1 date irrespective of the outcome of the consultation as there are GCSE exams during the other week. Families with Yr11 children won't be able to go away and if they do will miss exams, which will be detrimental to Island figures and children's outcomes, and staff will end up without a break at all. We must also be clear that CEC will not follow the 2 week half term in October model as all robust research shows that this is detrimental to student outcomes.
6	anonymous	Because of the exams
7	anonymous	I would prefer one week October half term and an earlier July finish as the temperatures could be very hot especially in non- air-conditioned schools. However, if this is not an option the later June half term seems more palatable and avoids an 8.5 final half term when the children may be less responsive.
8	anonymous	None
9	anonymous	I have reached out to ASCL members and would like to provide some feedback, There was a feeling that we should not align college dates to the second and later half term break in the summer as it would be problematic with GCSE exams which fall that week, meaning staff wouldn't get a break and Yr11 children couldn't go away The robust research clearly suggests outcomes are affected by a two week half-term in October, the students miss one week of learning and although the summer is extended this will not affect Year 11/13 that have already completed the public exams. We would also question the 3 bank holidays in the summer 1 half term (due to change of week for half-term).
10	anonymous	Option 2 proposes a 'May; half term' in June and falls thus in the middle of the GCSE timetable. With careful consideration this option will not be in the best interests for all children across the Island.
11	anonymous	Am not happy that the summer holidays start so late in July. Children and staff will be exhausted, and this isn't the best use of teaching days.
12	anonymous	Both options are rubbish. Where has our summer holiday gone? Aren't we supposed to get 6 weeks? Two weeks in October has messed up the rest of our holidays.
13	anonymous	Version 1 would make the summer term more than 8 weeks long. This is too long for the children and staff.

ID	Name	Responses
14	anonymous	<p>version 2 means the weeks in the term are more evenly spread out which is why I have selected it and feel this is more suitable. I believe version 1 creates a very long 8 and a bit week term, which I feel is way to long for the children.</p>
15	anonymous	<p>The constant changing of the holiday pattern is a source of frustration for our members and could be having an impact on staff recruitment. Version 2 could be problematic with having a half-term holiday during the public examinations. There is a preference for a longer summer holiday to fully recover from the school year. Neither pattern of holidays provides for this. Perhaps a compromise could be a 10-day October half-term and the remaining days added back onto the summer break.</p>