

## **Appendix 2**

### **Comments from stakeholders' consultation.**

#### **Response 1**

Good morning,

I am personally not in favour of the 2 week holiday in October. Teachers reported that having a 2 week break in October interrupted pupils' learning and on their return in November spent time recapping learning from the autumn term. With the additional recapping of learning and Christmas activities the week before the Christmas holiday, this limited the learning for the autumn 2 term.

The summer break in 2023/2024 is just 4 weeks after a long 8 week term. My teachers, and I would imagine many others spend the first and last week working; prepping classrooms and planning. This would give staff 2 weeks holiday.

Teaching and learning has more impact on pupils being in school in October than at the end of July when assessments have been completed and submitted for the end of year in June and early July.

I also believe we will see an increase of families taking slightly cheaper holidays in July and this will impact attendance.

Many thanks

#### **Response 2**

Dear Martin,

Although we are an academy I think it is helpful to share the position of governors at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wouldn't move to a two-week half term as the research evidence from elsewhere indicates that it is detrimental on secondary staff workloads, has an impact on student motivation, and has a disproportionate financial and welfare impact on lower income families. Governors have researched this widely and discussed in detail to reach this understanding.

Thanks

#### **Response 3**

The general consensus at this school would be to return to a one-week October half term.

#### **Response 4**

Hi,

A two-week holiday in October is particularly challenging for families and for many of the children they have just got into a routine and two-weeks away really unsettles their progress. Ideally two-weeks after KS2 Sat's would be ideal but this has never been an option. Also a shorter summer

holiday would be preferable and balance out the terms and breaks throughout the year, but this would be a big change, which is not what you've asked us to feedback on, but just a thought.

#### **Response 5**

I would like a short Summer and two-weeks at October.

Many Thanks

#### **Response 6**

Can Christmas go a day later and come back on the 3rd?

May half term could this be moved to first week of June?

#### **Response 7**

Hi - this is a joint response from [REDACTED]. We make up around 2200 students and 280 staff. So we have a big voice I would suggest in this and should not be weighted equally with say a primary school.

We are against a two-week October half term. The fundamental reason is it reduces learning time for our Year 11 students prior to their examinations. Having the additional learning week in late July means they do not have this time. Students in this final GCSE year need every minute available to them and they are being compared nationally with all other students - those students will nearly all have had an additional 25 hours of learning and so we will create a disadvantage to the Year 11.

I would be interested in an argument that trumps this one above? I don't really believe there is one?

#### **Response 8**

Dear Martin

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposals for the 2023/24 academic year.

From the [REDACTED] perspective, we would prefer a one-week October half term.

This would enable each half term to last 6 or 7 weeks, with the end of year being slightly longer (8 weeks).

#### **Response 9**

Dear Martin

The staff [REDACTED] are overwhelmingly not in favour of a four week summer break - which appears to come as a consequence of a two-week break in October.

Regards

### **Response 10**

██████████ preference is for a 2 week half term.

Best wishes,

### **Response 11**

Dear Martin,

Please find attached the NEU's response to the most recent consultation on the 23-24 school holidays (incorporating a 2-week half-term).

Also attached is our response to the initial consultation in March.

Kind regards,

Dominic



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### **Response 12**

Good afternoon Martin,

Having gathered feedback from staff, the majority would prefer this 2-week October break rather than reverting to the one-week.

In this model, some half terms are very long while some are a lot shorter. Is there a way to even them out? Also, it doesn't appear to show very many days for the Christmas holidays (certainly not a full two-weeks), which, after a long Autumn term, is very much needed.

Many thanks,

### **Response 13**

Also can you let Martin Goff know that feedback from the ██████ was (narrowly) for the two-weeks at October.

Thanks