



# GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

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16 December 2019

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> September- Training Day (\*\*SKA's first day of the new term)*

#### **Autumn**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

#### **Spring**

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

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

#### **Summer**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

*(\*\*SKA (Skegness Academy) training days are 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 - Training day*

#### **Autumn**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### **Spring**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

#### **Summer**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

### **2022-2023**

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 – Training days*

#### **Autumn**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

#### **Spring**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

#### **Summer**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

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