

May 2008

Dear Parents,

Re: Parental feedback on the Term Date Consultation Exercise

We were delighted to receive nearly 100 responses from parents across the three Perse Schools, and I am very grateful for the detailed and helpful comments that have been submitted.

Of the three options the most popular with just under half of the total parental 'vote' was the two-week Michaelmas half term; a third of parents preferred the current term date status quo, whilst the least preferred option was the earlier finish for Christmas.

Although there was a clear majority in favour of the two-week half term, this was qualified by requests that we try and standardise term dates across independent schools. Working parents who cannot take holiday in the autumn also asked for some form of whole day school based activities during one of the proposed half term weeks to assist with child care.

Whilst educationally I am in favour of the two-week half term, I do recognise the importance of the practical reservations that have been made. As such I am now in discussion with St Mary's, The Perse Girls, The Leys and St Faith's to see if we can agree on a co-ordinated approach to term dates for 2009-10. (I should emphasise that as a growing number of parents are choosing The Pelican, Prep and Upper to educate all of their children, the same term dates will apply to all three of our schools.)

We are also examining what school trips and activity clubs could be run in a two-week half term to provide additional educational opportunities for our pupils and whole day child care option for parents. Any such trips and activities would need to have a 'fun element' in order to give pupils a break from school work and the opportunity to 're-charge batteries'.

We hope to finalise our 2009-10 term dates by the end of the summer term and find a solution that delivers education benefits whilst also addressing practical concerns.

In the meantime, I am very grateful for all the comments I have received.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Edward Elliott
Head Elect

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