

# Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number:  
2013-17/267

From:	Wendy Kerslake Schools Commissioning Team
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Date:	18 January 2017
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To:	All County Councillors
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## Proposed Somerset School Terms & Holidays 2018-19

Each year, the Local Authority (LA) consults on the draft school term and holiday dates for the next but one academic year. These will apply to Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Academies, and Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, are able to set their own Term Dates and Holidays, although most align their dates with those set by Somerset County Council.

The draft dates for the academic year 2018-19 are available on the Somerset County Council's consultation hub to enable interested parties to respond to the proposed dates.

The consultation page can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk>

Background details on the draft dates:

- (1) As in previous years, a total of 195 school days have been identified and schools will be able to choose 5 INSET days which best suit them.
- (2) As far as possible, the terms will be of similar length and will start on a Monday and finish on a Friday. Having already indicated in the 2017-18 calendar the anticipated start date for the 2018-19 academic year would be 03 September 2018, it was felt that this should be retained.

- (3) Option A follows the traditional pattern, i.e. one week for each half term, two weeks at Christmas and Easter. Option B proposes a longer Autumn half term which will reduce the number of days in the term by three days, and also the Summer school holidays by the same number of days.
- (4) In Option A and B, the Christmas break is the same length but Option A the proposal is to finish the term on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December and start to the Spring Term on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January whilst Option B proposes an earlier date on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December and an earlier start to the Spring Term on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January.
- (5) The February half term break is suggested as the week beginning 18 February 2019. The Easter bank holiday weekend is relatively late in this year (Friday 19 April – Monday 22 April). This is in line with most other neighbouring Local Authorities.
- (7) Wherever possible, Somerset looks to align its Term Dates & Holidays with those of its neighbouring Authorities. There are strong cross-border admissions arrangements with neighbouring authorities.
- (8) Assuming that the 2019-20 academic year will begin on 02 September 2019, Somerset's proposed summer holiday 2018 for Option A will be 5 weeks and 3 days long (including the August Bank Holiday and excluding possible INSET days). In comparison, Option B will be 5 weeks, due to the length of the Autumn term earlier in the Academic year.

The consultation will close at 23.59pm on Friday 03 March 2017.

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