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21/03/2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Consultation on term dates and attendance report

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about an important consultation regarding our school calendar and a minor adjustment to the school day.

The term dates for the next academic year have now been published on the website. However, as a school we would like to propose a two week October Half-Term.

Consultation on a Two-Week October Half-Term

Following feedback from parents/carers, we are launching a four-week consultation to gather views on the possibility of introducing a two-week half-term break in October, beginning from the weeks commencing 20th and 27th October. We believe this could provide benefits for both students and staff, and we would like to hear your thoughts.

To share your views, please complete the Google Form below:

<https://forms.gle/j88WuPixPSLWam8H8>

The form will remain open until Friday 18th April. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us make an informed decision.

As part of this proposal, we will be running a Year 11 and Sixth Form intervention programme during these two weeks to provide additional support for students preparing for exams. At the same time, this extended break will give families greater flexibility to take holidays outside of the peak periods, potentially reducing costs and minimising disruption to learning.

Adjustment to the School Day

To facilitate this potential change, we will need to slightly extend the school day by adding five minutes to Period 5. This means that from September, school will finish at 15:15 instead of 15:10. This minor adjustment ensures we continue to provide the highest quality education without disrupting learning time.

The Importance of Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for academic success. Research shows that students with 95% or higher attendance are nearly twice as likely to achieve Grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared to those with lower attendance. Even missing just 10 days of school can significantly lower a student's chances of achieving their potential.

For example, a student with 90% attendance (missing around 19 days) will have lost a significant amount of learning time, making it harder to keep up with the curriculum. A student with 80% attendance (missing approximately 38 days) is at a much greater disadvantage, struggling to master content and perform well in assessments.

We ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly. If you have any concerns or challenges with attendance, please contact us—we are here to help. More information on the long-term impact of school absence can be found here: [The Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings](#).

We appreciate your support and engagement in this consultation process. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cologne', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Cologne
Principal