

16 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on a Proposed Change to the Autumn Half-Term Break (from academic year 2026/27)

At Tyne Coast Academy Trust, we are always looking at ways we can better support the wellbeing and success of our children, staff and families across our schools. As part of our ongoing work to review the school calendar, we are seeking your views on a proposed change to the October half-term break from the next academic year (2026/27) onwards.

We are proposing to extend the October half-term break from one week to two weeks. This will be achieved by reducing the summer holidays in 2027 from seven weeks to six weeks (which is the usual length of the summer break).

We invite you to read the further information included with this letter and we would invite you to provide us with your views by completing our short online consultation form by 9am on Monday 23 March 2026. The link to complete the consultation is [Parental Consultation Form](#)

The results of both the parent/carers and staff consultation will be reviewed and we aim to confirm the final decision prior to the Easter break.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our schools. We are proud to work in partnership with you to ensure the very best outcomes and educational experiences for every child.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mike Collier

Chief Executive Officer



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Parent FAQs

Question	Answer
Why are we looking to change to a two-week Autumn half term break?	This creates a longer break in the autumn term, which is the longest term of the school year. We hope this will lead to fewer pupil and staff absences during this term which is the term where absences are usually highest. Support pupil and staff wellbeing by providing time to rest and recover during the longest term of the academic year which in turn will support staff recruitment and retention enabling us to make roles within our schools more attractive to the very best candidates. We understand that a major reason for families making requests for term time holidays is the higher cost during school holiday periods. We believe a second week in late October/early November is an opportunity for families to take a cheaper family holiday.
Will my child lose out on learning time?	No, the proposed term dates have been set to ensure schools will still be open for the required number of days.
Are schools allowed to change their term times?	Yes, as part of a Trust, academies are free to set their own term dates and school day.
What dates will be the half-term break if this proposal is approved?	The half term break will be from Monday 19 October 2026 until Friday 30 October 2026.
Are other schools doing this?	Across England, a growing number of schools and local authorities have adopted extended holiday models. Feedback from several schools that have already implemented similar calendar models has been consistently positive. These schools report notable improvements in attendance, enhanced well-being for staff and students, and strengthened academic outcomes demonstrating the potential benefits of adopting this approach.
What are the proposed term dates for 2026/27?	Term 1 Tuesday 1 September to Friday 16 October 2026 Term 2 Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2026 Term 3 Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2027 Term 4 Monday 22 February to Friday 25 March 2027 Term 5 Monday 12 April to Friday 28 May 2027 Term 6 Monday 7 June to Friday 23 July 2027 2027/28 term starts 6 September 2027