

11th May 2023

Decision on Corby Technical School's term dates

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey on whether Corby Technical School should move to a six-term school calendar in the future.

In total we received more than 1,000 replies to the survey, including responses from students and staff as well as parents and carers. A small number of people also attended our drop-in discussions.

As we expected, there was a close split in the overall responses between those parents in favour and those against. However, amongst parental responses there was a clear difference between parents with children at both CTS and another school who were mostly in favour of the six-term model, and those parents solely with a child or children at CTS who were mostly in favour of the five-term model. The majority of staff and students both favoured moving to the six-term model.

All responses and comments were considered, along with other information relating to the national and school-specific recruitment/retention challenges, the support available to vulnerable children during the five-term year holidays and discussions with other schools in our Trust who use the six-term model. Since the survey closed, we have been carefully examining all the feedback to help us reach a view on what is best for CTS in the future.

Key points of consideration

We will always do everything we can to maintain the highest possible standards for our students. At the heart of maintaining this is having the best possible teaching quality in every lesson. Understandably, those colleagues who are parents often choose to leave us when their own children start primary school. Similarly, we have experience of other staff deciding not to take up our offer of employment for the same reason. The recent survey really highlighted the scale of this challenge for CTS as two-thirds of current staff said they were in favour of moving to a six-term model because it would support recruitment and retention.

You will know that the national teacher recruitment crisis is a concern for all schools. Fewer people are choosing to become teachers each year, and the turnover of members of staff remains high. While we are fortunate to have significant support from Brooke Weston Trust, this recruitment backdrop means we are competing with other schools for a declining pool of high-quality candidates. Ultimately, good teachers and members of staff help to create and maintain the ambitious and caring environment in school that we all want to see. I'm sure everyone would agree that providing our students with the best possible educational experience must be our top priority.

Naturally, some parents liked the availability of holidays that the five-term model offered. But we also read many comments from parents and students who were unable to access holiday clubs during our five-term breaks, or who struggle to organise childcare if their children attend different schools. Many of the activities organised by local authorities to support vulnerable children or disadvantaged families coincide with the traditional six-term model, and no similar opportunities are arranged during our different holiday times.

Our decision

We have used all your stakeholder feedback to inform our decision about how best to protect CTS's long-term future. We have decided to proceed with moving to a six-term model from January 2024.

Under the new six-term model, we will continue to be open for same number of teaching days each year (190 days) as now. Therefore, students will continue to receive the same amount of teaching time moving forward.

We know some people were concerned that they had already booked family holidays for next year based on our current five-term model dates. The transition to the six-term model will not come into effect until January 2024 – meaning that holidays planned for the remainder of this calendar year will not be affected. Additionally, any holidays that have been pre-booked

from January to July 2024 in our five-term year holiday periods will also be honoured, providing they were booked before Thursday 11th May 2023. Please email enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org to bring this to our attention if this applies to you by Friday 21st July 2023.

The full proposed term dates for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years have been included at the end of this letter. If you have any other immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org

Yours faithfully,

Mrs A Reynolds
Principal

Mr A Burns
Chief Education Officer – Brooke
Weston Trust

Mr G Campbell
Chair of Governors

Term Dates for 2023/2024

Term	Starts	Finishes
Term 1	Mon 21 Aug 2023*	Fri 13 Oct 2023
Holiday period	Mon 16 Oct 2023	Fri 27 Oct 2023
Term 2	Mon 30 Oct 2023	Fri 22 Dec 2023
Holiday period	Mon 25 Dec 2023	Wed 3 Jan 2024
Term 3	Thu 4 Jan 2024	Fri 16 Feb 2024
Holiday period	Mon 19 Feb 2024	Fri 23 Feb 2024
Term 4	Mon 26 Feb 2024	Thu 28 Mar 2024
Holiday period	Tues 2 Apr 2024	Fri 12 Apr 2024
Term 5	Mon 15 Apr 2024	Fri 24 May 2024
Holiday period	Tues 28 May 2024	Fri 31 May 2024
Term 6	Mon 3 Jun 2024	Thu 25 Jul 2024
Holiday period	Fri 26 July 2024	Fri 30 Aug 2024

*please note the period between Mon 21 Aug and Thu 31 Aug falls in the academic year 2022/2023

Proposed training days for staff (school closed to students)
Fri 1 Sept 2023
Fri 22 Dec 2023
Thu 4 Jan 2024
Wed 24 Jul 2024
Thu 25 Jul 2024

Proposed dates for 2024/2025

Term	Starts	Finishes
Autumn Term (1)	Mon 2 Sep 2024	Fri 25 Oct 2024
Half term holiday	Mon 28 Oct 2024	Fri 1 Nov 2024
Autumn Term (2)	Mon 4 Nov 2024	Fri 20 Dec 2024
Christmas holiday	Mon 23 Dec 2024	Wed 1 Jan 2025
Spring term (1)	Thu 2 Jan 2025	Fri 14 Feb 2025
Half term holiday	Mon 17 Feb 2025	Fri 21 Feb 2025
Spring term (2)	Mon 24 Feb 2025	Fri 4 Apr 2025
Easter holiday	Mon 7 Apr 2025	Mon 21 Apr 2025
Summer term (1)	Tue 22 Apr 2025	Fri 23 May 2025
Half term holiday	Mon 26 May 2025	Fri 30 May 2025
Summer term (2)	Mon 2 Jun 2025	Tue 22 Jul 2025
Summer holiday	Wed 23 Jul 2025	

Proposed training days for staff (school closed to students)
Mon 2 Sep 2024
Tue 3 Sep 2024
Thu 2 Jan 2025
Fri 3 Jan 2025
Mon 30 Jun 2025