



Carshalton Boys Sports College

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4 March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Proposal to have a two week October half term break from 2024/25 onwards

Following on from our consultation with parents, staff and trustees last half term, I am writing to update you on the proposal to introduce a two week half term holiday in October from next academic year (2024/25).

Rationale

The autumn term is the longest and usually has one eight week half term; the end of this term can be problematic as students and staff are tired, illness/absence is higher and work is less productive. In addition, many staff are in school from the middle of August for exam results creating a longer first half term of 10-11 weeks.

Most local secondary schools now operate a two week October half term. There are only three secondary schools still operating a one week half term in October, putting us at risk of losing staff / being less able to recruit staff due to more attractive holiday arrangements elsewhere locally.

As stated above, CBSC already operates an extended day for three out of five year groups for the whole school year.

These additional hours equate to 1 - 3.5 weeks of additional curriculum time for the year groups involved.

The additional week at half term will provide opportunities for families to access cheaper holidays outside of national school term dates.

Results of consultation

157 parents responded to the survey, representing around 10% of the school population. Of these, just over 90% were in favour of introducing a two week holiday in October.

Of those not in favour, the main concern was around child care. As a result we will be offering a supervised study area during week one of the October half term break in 2024.

The half term holiday in October will now run from Monday 21st October 2024 - Friday 1st November 2024. More details about the supervised study area available during week one will be issued at the start of the autumn term.

Kind regards

Simon Barber
Principal