Inspiring Futures through Learning

Monday 16th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on a Proposed Change to the Autumn Half-Term Break (from academic year 2026/7)

At IFtL, we are always looking at ways we can better support the wellbeing and success of our children, staff and families. 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 (from the academic year 2026/7 onwards).

We are proposing to extend the October half-term break from one week to two weeks.

Why We Are Proposing This Change

This proposal comes in response to two significant challenges faced by many schools across the country:

- High levels of staff and pupil absence during the long Autumn Term, particularly in November
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in teaching and classroom support roles

We believe that a longer break in the Autumn Term would:

- Support staff and pupil wellbeing by providing time to rest and recover during the busiest time of year
- Help reduce sickness-related absences in the second half of the Autumn Term
- Make roles within our schools more attractive to the very best candidates
- Provide families with greater flexibility to take a break together during a less expensive time

We are also aware that some families request holidays during term time due to the high cost of travel during school holiday periods. While we continue to uphold our policy of not authorising holidays during term time, this additional week may help families plan holidays outside of term dates without disrupting children's learning.

What This Means for the School Year

To maintain the same number of learning days, we would make small adjustments to the school calendar in other parts of the year. These may include starting the academic year slightly earlier or finishing slightly later. These details will be confirmed after consultation, and each school will communicate specific arrangements in due course.

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We Would Value Your Feedback

We are currently consulting with both staff and families and would be very grateful for your views. Please take a few moments to complete our short online consultation form by 9am, Monday 7 July 2025.

Feedback form: https://forms.office.com/e/DHjFCVPpzx

This link can also be found on IFtL's website: www.iftl.co.uk or at this QR code:

Parent Consultation Feedback - Changes to October Half term (from academic year 2026/7)

The results of this consultation will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees and we aim to confirm the final decision by the beginning of September 2025.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We are proud to work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

Best wishes,

Sarah Bennett

Sarah Bennett
CEO