



10th June 2024

Dear Students and Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the two week half term trial proposal which we consulted staff, students and parents about last half term.

Firstly, thank you to all students and parents who filled in the survey. In the parent survey, we received 240 responses with 80% of parents supportive of the two week half term trial. Similarly, in the student survey we received 322 responses and 85% of students were supportive.

Following this consultation, we have taken the proposal to Governors and the Board of Trustees, and the two week half term trial for October this year in the academic year 2024-2025 has now been ratified by our Board of Trustees. This is a trial for this year, and we will evaluate and review how this goes. The October half term date for the next academic year will now be from Saturday 19th October until Sunday 3rd November.

We hope the two week October half term will have the following benefits:

- Reducing staff absence, and reducing the number of cover lessons for students
- Reducing student absence during the winter months when students get ill
- Allowing students and staff to have a rest in the longest academic term so teaching and learning can be of a consistently high quality throughout the year
- Giving Year 11 students more time at home to revise independently for their Year 11 Mocks which start in late November

In parent feedback in the survey, some of our parents felt one of the benefits of a two week half term, instead of multiple training days throughout the year, is that there are not frequent 'random' days off for students. Naturally, there will be some occasions where early finishes or late starts are part of calendar for the school to run smoothly, but in order to keep you informed we would like to share with you all of these dates in advance (including the holiday dates) to allow you to plan your family diaries: [click here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you should have any questions, queries or concerns by emailing contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mr Macaulay

