

Dear parents, carers and staff

Making one change so that we maximise learning and well-being for everyone

As a Trust we are growing and finding more ways to use what we know and understand about how children learn, develop and improve to ensure education and the experiences your children have are the best they can be. You might be aware that many staff across the Trust work together so that the well-being and learning of all of our children, staff and students allows us all to achieve more; challenge thinking and shape futures.

Following my recent discussions with your children, they also want more opportunities to work together and make a difference. This is why we wanted to let you know that we are working hard to balance out and maximise learning and rest time across the academic year for everyone in our Trust.

The proposal is outlined below, but before we move forward we need your ideas, views and support. So, please have a read through the details and let us know if you have any questions. But, because most of us across the Trust are also parents, carers, aunties, uncles and some even grandparents we have created a question and answer sheet that you might find useful.

As with all key decisions, we like to ensure that we ask all staff, parents and our young people how it feels for them. This is important as it's one of the best ways to understand what might need to be improved, shared or changed. When we work together it is so much easier to find solutions, even if we can't please everyone, we can at least try. So, you will see that for September 2024 we have planned in an increased level of discussions with families about how the pattern of the year feels for them and to generate ideas so that we continue to improve.



Proposal

From September, we want to make one change that we believe will make a big difference to your children, our pupils and students (and school staff):

We want to add 5 more days to the Autumn term break. This will mean that instead of being off for 5 school days, pupils/students will be off for 10 school days and have opportunities to take a much needed break.

Dates for 2024/25: **21st October – 1st November**

Why?

- This will help us to ensure a regular pattern of learning across all Trust schools in the Autumn, Spring and Summer term so that well-being, health and engagement with learning is maximised

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- This will help us to ensure that the number of INSET days, length of the school days and School holiday dates are in line with other Trust schools so staff can continue to work together for your child's education
- This will enable us to ensure all pupils have an opportunity to have even better learning experiences in school, in other Trust schools and on our University campus that bring their learning alive
- To help us all find creative ways to expand current Holiday club options across the Trust for all families

Next steps:

You will have the next few weeks to read the question and answers document attached and to use the official Trust inbox 1change4unicat@gmail.com to share your ideas and comments. This is so we ensure all communication is captured from one place.

I will send an update on the proposal by 29th March 2024.

Thank you for helping us to find a way forward.

Kind regards

Jennese Alozie, CEO
University of Chichester Academy Trust