



2 Week Autumn Half Term
Consultation Meeting
Thursday July 5th 2018





Aims for this session

- To summarise the school's proposal to extend the Autumn half term to 2 weeks in 2019-20
- To explain the what/ why/ how of the proposal
- To provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions



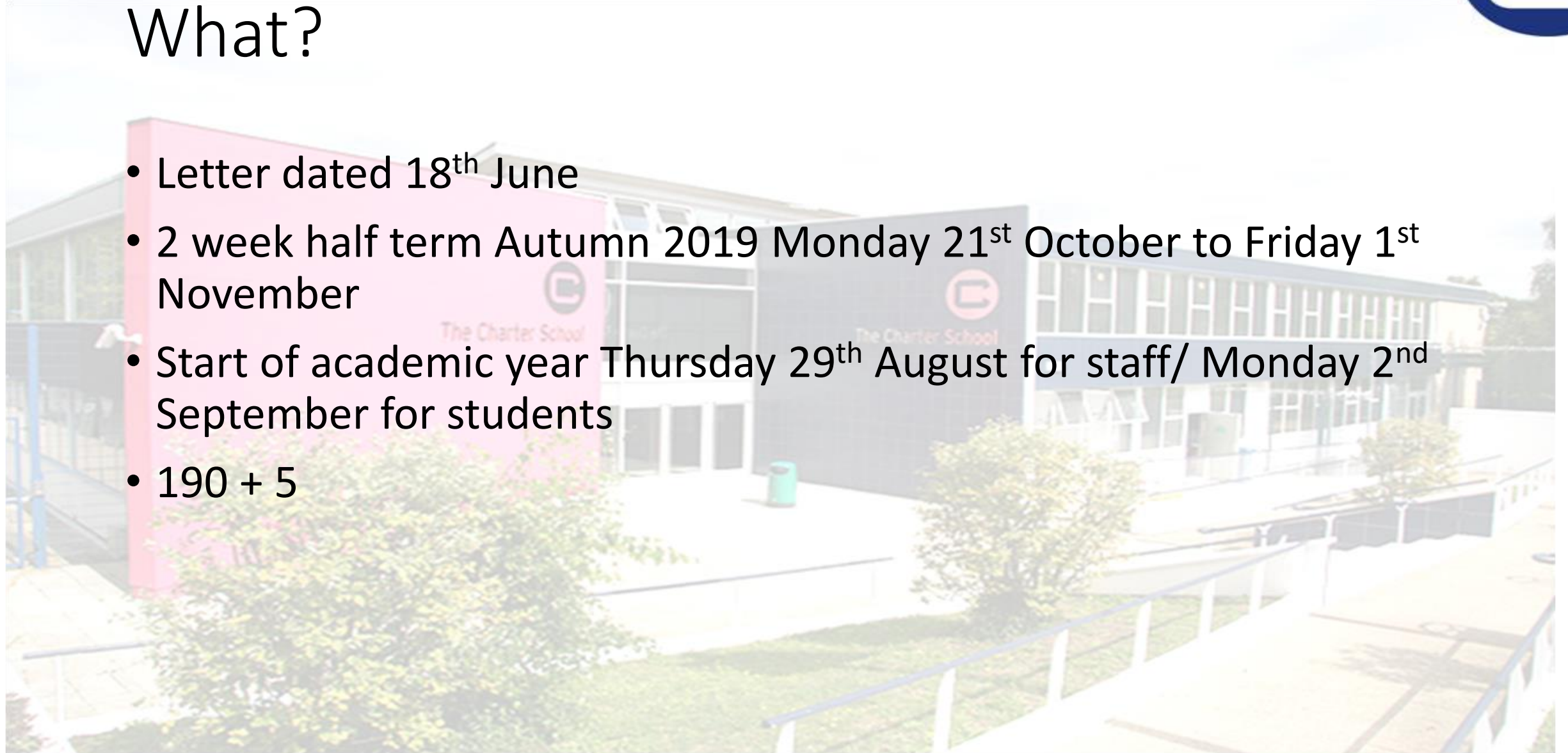
To start...

- “Academies set their own term dates and school day.”
- Is it Autumn **2019?**
- What is our motivation?
- Are we a sheep or a maverick?
- Can we justify the proposal?
- Will we persuade you?
- Can you remember what it felt like in November?



What?

- Letter dated 18th June
- 2 week half term Autumn 2019 Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November
- Start of academic year Thursday 29th August for staff/ Monday 2nd September for students
- 190 + 5





How

- Southwark dates not fully confirmed
- 5 days extra holiday at Autumn half term
- 2 days gained at the start of Autumn term
- 1 day gained from the November/ December 'Inset' Day
- 1 day gained from Good Friday/ Easter Monday falling within the Easter holiday (TBC)
- 1 more day to find...
- We will probably disaggregate an Inset Day at the end of the summer term, but there are other options...



Why?

- Local context
- Wider context
- Summer holiday: harvest/ 'dip'/ start new year on a Monday not a Wednesday
- Autumn term is long/ 3 weeks longer than the Spring and Summer terms
- Autumn is dark
- ... and cold
- ... and wet
- Staff and students



Students - Attendance

2017-2018	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Difference
Year 7	97.56	96.56	-1.00
Year 8	97.17	95.94	-1.23
Year 9	97.10	95.80	-1.30
Year 10	95.14	94.56	-0.57
Year 11	97.30	95.48	-1.82
Overall	96.73	95.54	-1.19
2016-2017	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Difference
Year 7	97.32	96.29	-1.03
Year 8	97.20	95.91	-1.30
Year 9	96.00	95.05	-0.95
Year 10	96.95	94.97	-1.99
Year 11	94.04	93.25	-0.79
Overall	96.28	95.09	-1.20



School Attendance 2013-17

	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	TCS	Nat.	TCS	Nat.	TCS	Nat.	TCS	Nat.
Attendance	95.2	94.9	95.3	94.8	95.4	95.0	95.6	94.8





Students – Sanctions

2017-2018	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Difference
Year 7	15	22	+7
Year 8	11	15	+4
Year 9	25	44	+19
Year 10	41	58	+17
Year 11	29	50	+21



Staff Absence

	Sept/Oct	Nov /Dec
2016	94	181
2017	71	229



“Our work shows that regular breaks for teachers are incredibly important for their psychological health. Ensuring that teachers have these opportunities to recover from the considerable demands of the job will help to prevent burnout. In my opinion, it is vital that these regular breaks in the school calendar are conserved.”

Dr. Paul Flaxman, Senior Lecturer in Organisational Psychology at City University London, said:

Other Schools



- ‘There's no doubt that student engagement in the period up to Xmas has benefited significantly from The Charter School East Dulwich's decision to extend its October half term to two weeks. Students have been better able to focus on their studies right the way through to the Xmas break. The sort of flagging towards the beginning of December that we've all experienced in other schools simply didn't happen.’ (TCSED)
- ‘We find the two week half term in the Autumn to be extremely beneficial. The opportunity for students to have a longer break means that they return refreshed and the final weeks before Christmas are much more effective. I know of no school that has gone to a two week half term and then contemplated going back.’ (JAGS)
- ‘Ravens Wood school was one of the first schools to adopt the two week half term and it has been a great success with students , staff and parents. It has addressed the concerns of a long term impacting on attendance and energy of the students and staff. It has allowed some to go on holiday outside the peak half term week but mainly it has raised morale and reduced improved attendance and punctuality. Hayes adopted the two week half term in 2016 and students, staff and parents are universally in favour of this and would not go back even though it means a slightly earlier start to the school year.’ (Impact Trust)

And more...



- Brighton and Hove LEA introduced 2 week half terms last year but for all schools: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-36806773>
- Hammersmith Academy USP for prospective applicants: a commitment to Wellbeing — free flu vaccinations offered annually, INSET in July to plan for September so that you can enjoy your summer, an annual wellbeing week and a two week half term during the Autumn Term.
- Most Bromley schools
- Harris
- Hackney New School <http://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/education/hackney-new-school-doubles-half-term-holiday-to-two-weeks-for-academic-reasons-1-5202005>
- Legra Academy Trust [http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/15686167.Academy trust proposes two-week half term in autumn/](http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/15686167.Academy%20trust%20proposes%20two-week%20half%20term%20in%20autumn/)
- Most Bromley schools
- All Harris schools



Questions

- Why aren't primary schools doing this?
- Can we provide a club for students in 1 of the weeks?
- Can this be reviewed?





Questions?

