



Monday 20th April 2026

Re: Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Local School Calendar's for Mildenhall College Academy, Beck Row Academy and Great Heath Academy

I am writing to invite your views as part of a formal consultation on proposed changes to the local school calendar introducing a two week October half term break from October 2026.

This consultation will run for **two weeks**, during which we welcome feedback from parents, carers, students, staff and members of our wider community before any final decisions are made.

These changes are being explored to support student learning and attendance, staff development and overall wellbeing across our community.

In proposing this alteration we have considered the impact on the local community and that is why we have decided to approach this proposal as a group of 3 local academies.

Why We Are Proposing This Change for the Half Term Break

Our intention is to design a structure that is sustainable, promotes high-quality education, and supports both student and staff well-being. A two-week October break would support:

- improved student attendance in the second half of the Autumn term
- better placing of learning and assessment
- reduced illness and staff absence during a period that is nationally one of the highest for school-related fatigue

Despite the extension to the half term break, curriculum time across the academic year would remain fully protected through minimal amendments to the daily timings.

Compliance With DfE Requirements

The Department for Education requires schools to offer at least 32.5 hours per week. Primary schools also provide breakfast and after school clubs. The proposed model in all academies continues to meet — and exceed — this requirement.

Proposed Changes to the Academy Day

- A revised start time of **08:40**
- A finish time of **15:25**

We are committed to incorporating the views of parents, carers, pupils and staff throughout this process.

How to Share Your Views

Academy Transformation Trust welcomes your views on this proposal, and you can engage in the following ways:

Email: consultations@attrust.org.uk with the appropriate subject header: Great Heath/Beck Row/MCA

In writing: Karen Robson, Academy Transformation Trust, Unit 4, Second Floor, Emmanuel Court, Reddicroft, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AZ

Consultation Timeline

Consultation launch Monday 20th April

Consultation Closes Tuesday 5th May 10:00am

Decision Monday 11th May

Communicate to stakeholders Thursday 21st May

Website and Calendar updated (if required) Friday 22nd May

Thank you for your ongoing support and for taking the time to contribute to this important discussion. We remain committed to working in partnership with families to secure the very best outcomes for our young people.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Mitchinson

