

9th May 2025

Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of an important change to the scheduling of our non-pupil days starting from the 2026/27 academic year. Currently, our five non-pupil days are positioned at the end of the May half-term, creating a two-week break during this period. From 2026/27, this arrangement will change to better align with the structure across our school trust family.

Four out of the five non-pupil days will be coordinated across all schools within the trust. This means we will no longer have a two-week break in May/June. Instead, the non-pupil days will be distributed more effectively throughout the academic year.

We believe this adjustment will bring several benefits for both our staff and pupils:

- 1. Alignment with Secondary School Term Dates** An important benefit of this change is that our term dates will more closely align with those of secondary schools in Torbay. This will make it easier for families with children in both primary and secondary settings to manage schedules and plan family activities.
- 2. Enhanced Professional Development Opportunities** By aligning non-pupil days across the trust, we can facilitate more purposeful, high-quality training and continuing professional development (CPD) sessions for our staff. Trust-wide training days will allow us to deliver consistent and impactful development opportunities, ensuring staff have the latest tools and strategies to support your child's learning journey.
- 3. Increased Collaboration Across Schools** This change will enable staff from different schools within the trust to collaborate meaningfully. Sharing best practices, ideas, and expertise will strengthen teaching and learning across all schools, ultimately benefiting every student in our trust.
- 4. More Consistent Learning for Children** By spreading the non-pupil days across the year, we aim to reduce interruptions to learning and maintain a more consistent routine for children. A shorter break in May/June ensures continuity in the curriculum, which helps pupils stay engaged and retain knowledge more effectively.
- 5. Improved Planning for Families** We understand how important it is for families to have clear and predictable term dates for planning purposes. Aligning non-pupil days across the trust will provide greater clarity and consistency, particularly for families with children attending multiple schools within the trust family.



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Please note that the current model, including the two-week break in May/June, will remain in place for the 2025/26 academic year.

It is worth highlighting that the current arrangement for non-pupil days works due to our staff's significant commitment to weekly professional development. Currently, all staff participate in one training session per week, and teaching staff also dedicate two after-school sessions each week. These efforts allow us to accommodate the additional time required for the two-week May/June break, but they also highlight the importance of aligning future non-pupil days to provide more structured and impactful professional development opportunities.

We appreciate that changes to the school calendar can have an impact, and we are committed to supporting our families during this transition. A full schedule for the 2026/27 academic year, including term dates and non-pupil days, will be shared well in advance to assist with your planning.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to create the best possible educational experience for our students.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Helm

Head Teacher