



Report
on the
Statutory Consultation
August 2023



Studio College Academic Year
2023-24 and beyond

Contents



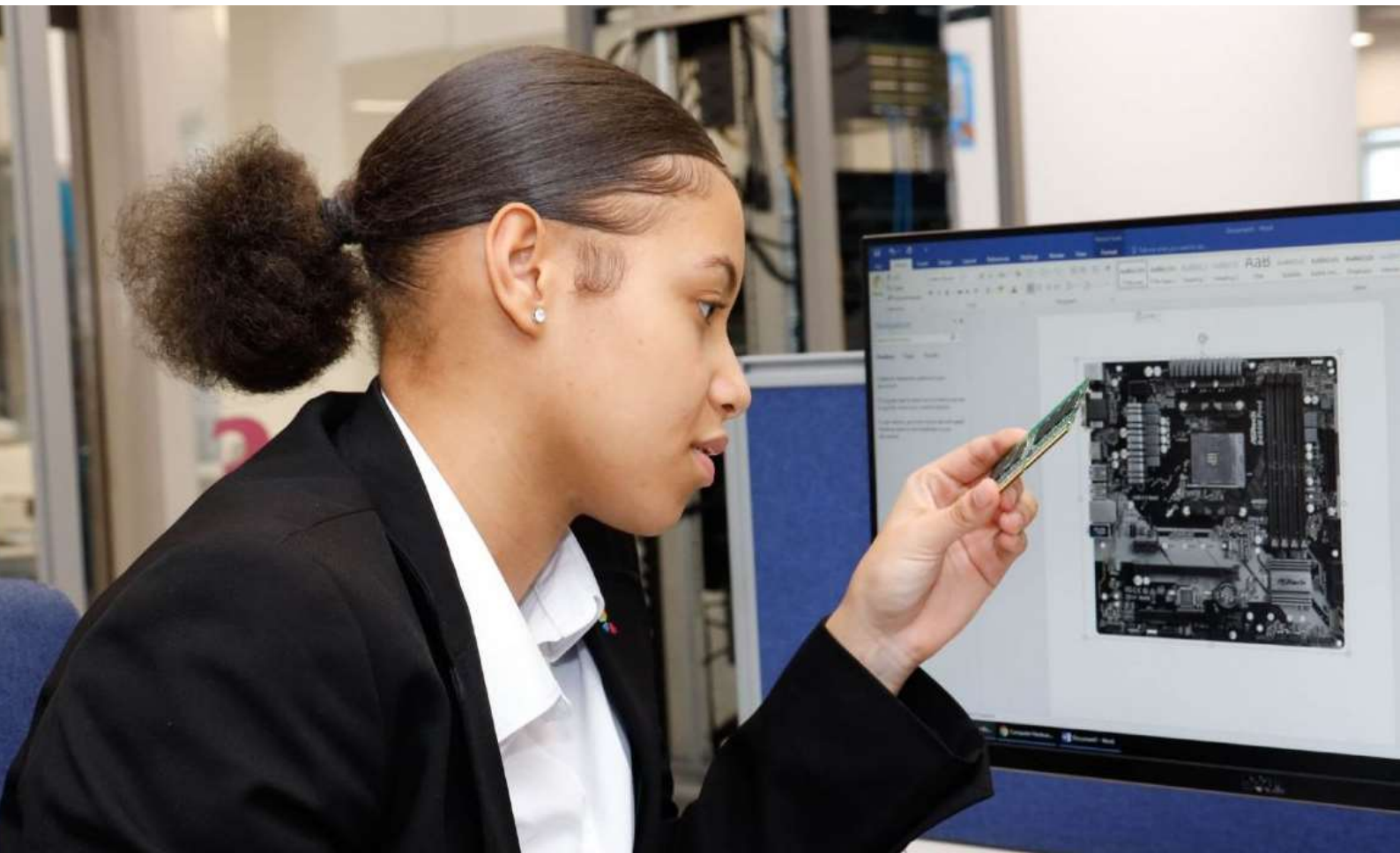
Executive summary

The consultation process

Analysis of the stakeholder survey

Stakeholder comments

Conclusion



Executive summary

The Rosedale Hewens Academy Trust (thereafter ‘the Trust’) has actively sought comments and views in respect of the academic year as this relates to Studio Colleges, namely Parkside Studio College and De Salis Studio College. To this end, the statutory consultation took place in the period 3rd July to 1st August 2023 with regard to proposed changes to the academic year and published terms and holidays from 2023-24 onwards.

Accordingly, the views of parents, guardians and carers together with stakeholders have been duly noted as these relate to the proposal to change the Studio College academic year and holiday calendar.

The consultation process

The consultation document explained the core hours will continue to be organised to ensure foundation subjects, options, practical lessons, guided learning and intervention arrangements are fully in place.

It stated that by aligning the terms and holidays across the Trust, as outlined, there will have a positive impact on student outcomes. Alignment of term times will allow for holistic planning across the Schools and Colleges of the Trust and thus enhance the service. Through new arrangements for the academic year, there is further opportunity to collaborate in terms of enrichment activities, and the ability to benefit more widely through aspects of the curriculum offer. By aligning terms and holidays, this will bring about positive change with the opportunity to increase student numbers in support of the organisational structure across the Trust.

Accordingly, the consultation was particularly directed to all parents, guardians and carers of students attending the Studio Colleges. All key stakeholders were provided with either electronic or paper copy of the document, including prospective parents, guardians and carers, governors, Headteachers and Principals of other local schools, residents, the Local Authority and staff across the Academy Trust. Consultation details were also available more widely through College websites. Stakeholders were encouraged to use the Quick Response (QR) code to have their say.

The aim of the consultation document was to provide as much information as possible, including specific details about the background to the proposal, together with new academic year arrangements set out for the forthcoming academic year 2023/24, as proposed.

It was explained and noted that all replies and feedback will be reported and considered by the Academy Board with the clear aim of confirming whether or not the proposal is to be accepted by 2nd August 2023. It was noted that if accepted, arrangements for the new academic year and beyond, will be in place from September 2023 onwards.

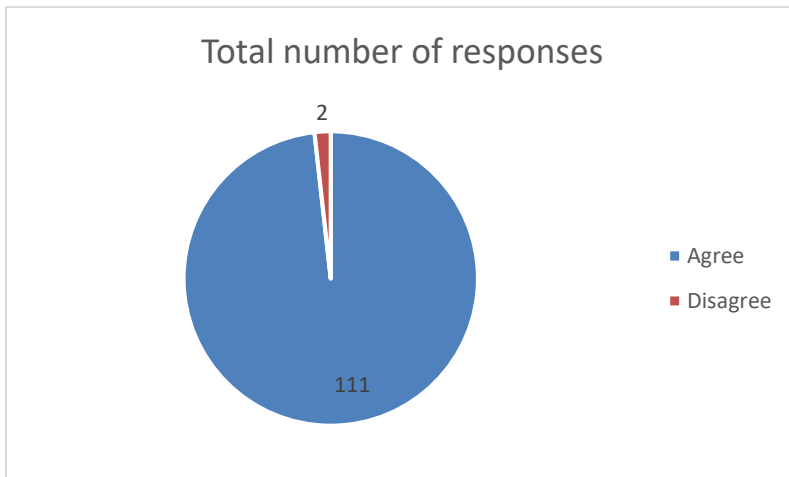
To this end, the feedback received has been carefully summarised with details set out below.

Analysis of stakeholder survey

Key Question

■ Do you agree with the proposal?

The key question sought to determine whether or not there was agreement with the proposal to adjust the Studio College academic year from four terms to three to align with the traditional Schools and Colleges of the Trust.



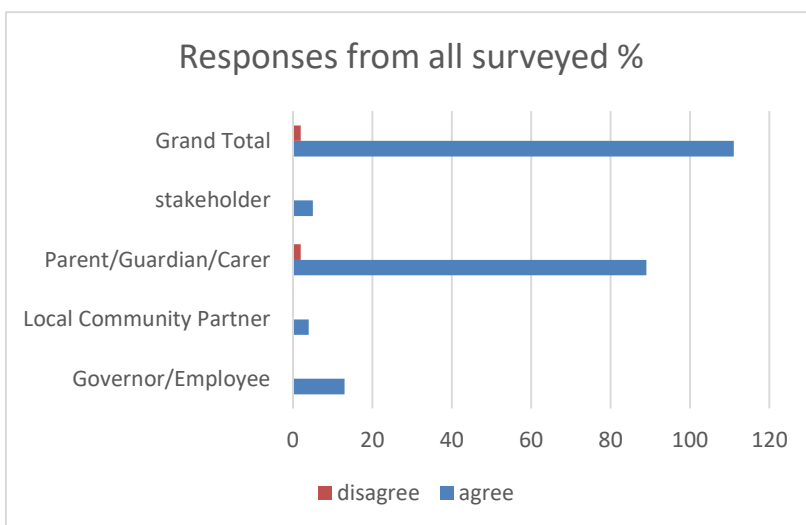
The key question asked whether or not stakeholders agreed with the proposal to adjust the Studio College academic year to align with the traditional Schools and Colleges of the Trust.

It is evident from the responses received that there is overwhelming support for the proposal, with 98.2% of respondents agreeing with the proposal.

Indeed, of the 113 replies, only 2 respondents indicated they were not in agreement with the proposal. It is also noted that of the 89 responses by families, only 2 respondents indicated that they disagreed. This demonstrates overwhelming support for the proposal from this significant group of stakeholders.

In order to address the two negative replies, the Trust is keen to determine any additional support and where possible, making special provision as an interim measure, for example.

There is clear evidence to suggest the vast majority (98.2%) of respondents agree that the Trust should implement change. This equates to 1.8% disagreeing with the proposal. There were no spoilt or unclear responses when replying to the question.



The consultation was directed to all stakeholders, including parents, guardians and carers, governors, employees, the Local Authority, together with other Trust and local Schools.

Encouragingly, the majority of respondents (78.8%) were noted as being parents, guardians or carers, who indicated they agreed with the proposal.

A summary of the stakeholder responses to the consultation document is provided, as follows:

STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES			
Total = 113 responses			
Parent/Guardian/Carer	Employee/Staff	Governor/Employee	Local Community Partner
91	5	13	4

Accordingly, the overwhelming majority of returns came from local families who indicated they agreed with the proposal for change. It is clear from the feedback that the proposal has been deemed by parents, guardians and carers to be supportive in terms of family circumstances.

Stakeholder comments

Direct comments made through face-to-face contact have also made it clear that there is significant support for the proposal at both Officer and Trustee level. This is further backed up by the exchange of email correspondence with families as part of the consultation.

The following comments were received from stakeholders, as collated through the consultation, thus endorsing the proposal, as outlined:

"Absolutely necessary, and will make a huge difference to ensuring that all the colleges are now aligned."

"Every time we want a family trip, my son is in school, which can cause an issue, as we have family all over the globe.... I urge you to please change these holidays into the same of those with traditional schools. We were planning a trip abroad for the summer holidays, but out of the five weeks we were planning to stay, we only have two."

"Another problem with this is that some children do get stopped outside by law enforcement, and I have personally seen this, on the grounds of skipping school though it is holiday. This may not pose to be very serious to some, but this can be quite frightening for the child, and they get stopped for something that they cannot help or control."

"I think more students would be interested and making De Salis more respectable."

"I believe the proposal would benefit us parents or guardians as working parents don't get to spend much time with their children during the holidays when they are home, also you can't go away as a family if you have one child in the school and one in another."

"I think it would be fantastic if the school holidays were aligned back to the same as traditional school holidays as I have 2 other children and it would help us plan leave and holidays. As well enable my child to interact with other activities as he keeps missing out."

"Brilliant idea."

"Happy for this change as it will benefit me and my children. I hope this will proceed as I have 2 daughters in separate schools with different holidays and finishing times I feel like it affects my daughters as they can't enjoy holidays together, my daughter loves Parkside studio college but the school hours are too long."

"I think this is a great idea because if we are trying to plan a holiday then it won't be a massive problem because children will have the same holidays and it won't be an issue trying to figure out who has their holiday's on the same day."

"I believe it is a good change to align with the other schools and colleges of the Trust."

*I would much prefer for my child to have the same holidays as everyone else in the country. Thank you
"We are happy to the new term dates as this will have a positive outcome for the families and student. Please confirm summer term dates 2023."*

"I would be highly in favour of this proposal."

"As a grandmother of a child who attends this school I would agree to the proposal."

"This will indeed make the Studio Colleges more attractive to families with siblings across primaries and secondaries. It will also allow staff with young children to have a better work life balance."

"I would love for the holidays to be normal it's a struggle sending my children to school at different days and times during the holidays and it's hard for us to plan holidays as the holidays do not match. Thank you for taking my form in consideration."

"I agree with the changes that is proposed because I wanted my both children to have the school break in the same time. For them to enjoy the time off together and also for us like a family will be more easily to arrange our time only once if both of my children are home at the same time. I hope this will be approved."

"This is a long awaited change that has been requested and spoken about on many occasions and I would be most satisfied and happy to see this come into effect."

"I am excited on this proposal as this change would align with vacations of the younger sibling which helps me plan better time with family vacations and travels. I agree with the proposal."

"Would be so much easier and better for my kids as in both schools. 100% support. Would be great if could start from this summer/August as could go on family holiday as hard to at moment. Makes it more convenient as teachers are off too when kids are in school so affecting their education as they are missing out key studies. Please start ASAP. Thanks for looking into this."

"It's a good idea to align the school holidays in line with the rest of the Trust, I believe this would also give the students a better rest period in between the terms, therefore allowing them to reach their full potential in learning."

"I think it's a good idea and it is efficient for the college(s)."

"I want my child to have normal holidays. Normal holidays are better."

"Our family wants to travel and we can't because of school and 2 weeks leaves our kids burnt out by September."

"I have two children in the Trust, one of which is in Primary school and has to stay home by himself for sometimes two weeks because both children do not have the same holidays and as an employee I do not have the same holidays as him. Therefore, there is less family time and bonding. This is having an impact on the mental health of all three of us. My son wants to be able to have more summer holiday."

"In terms of staff retention this will be a huge bonus as we would not have to move to another school to suit the needs of our current or future children. This will also help with marketing as parents will be more inclined to see the school as a viable option for their child."

"This would increase student motivation, make the schools more appealing to new parents and students and improve staff recruitment and retention."

"The proposal is welcomed especially in light of reducing the anxiety and stress faced by parents who have to make additional provisions to align with the traditional holidays in the other schools."

"Alignment of the school calendar is beneficial for families as well as students. It will reduce student absenteeism and make family holidays easy to plan."

"Works well for students who have siblings in other schools to be on holiday at the same time with them."

"I agree with the proposal. It will resolve childcare issues - emotional and financial being faced because of differing school terms."

"It is better for families to spend summer together and go on holidays and vacations and students deserve a proper break from school after they spend hours and days learning."

"I agree with the proposal as the half terms are very annoying due to the fact that all of my other family members are going on holiday at the same time but we are forced to stay at home as the half terms are different and this also forces my other children to have to sit at home while my child goes to school. This is also annoying as my children's short half term is different to my other child which is very bad as I will be going to work while my child will be sitting at home doing nothing and on his own."

"I agree because students and staff need to take a long break so they can spend time with their families and loved ones."

"The current holidays in De Salis disrupts family vacations, with this new holiday my family will be able to have vacations."

"Agree - Very good idea which will help De Salis a lot."

"It would be nice to have a normal summer term as we can go on holidays and really enjoy our time. It would be nice to have the same holidays because seeing everyone staying at home while my child goes school is pretty sad."

"I would prefer it for my child to have the same holidays as everyone else in the country."

"Aligning the holidays with the traditional schools and colleges of the trust will meet the needs of the families and it will be convenient for the parents."

"Children in this country should follow the normal British school system."

"Easier to arrange holidays and siblings are together for holidays."

"Yes I would like to change the terms time; it's very difficult to manage with two children different schools."

"The proposal contains changes that are necessary to improve the long term future of both colleges."

"Clashes with other kids holidays."

"Much better opportunity to align the 4 secondary schools."

"I agree with the proposal. Good Idea."

"We should change the layout of the holidays because it's very confusing and isn't really for my child going school while my other one doesn't."

"The holiday system should change since it's confusing and not fair for children that are attending."

"Strongly agree to aligning school holidays to traditional holidays. Will save me money in arranging childcare, enable flexibility and improve my child's wellbeing as he will be able to be off with siblings. Hope this starts ASAP. Thanks."

"Please can you change the holiday to be the same as the other schools."

"It would be easier as a family if both of my children have the same holidays. Currently, it is difficult to arrange family holidays as both of my children have different term dates."

"Something that I will totally agree with. My daughter who goes to Rosedale Primary School, so it's so hard to plan family holidays when holidays are completely different. Count me in to agree with having the standard term dates as rest of the country."

"I am with the view that the studio colleges term times to be changed as per rest of the academies."

"As a parent of two children enrolled in different schools, I fully support this proposed change. The current situation has deterred many parents, including myself, from recommending De Salis to others who have children in different schools. Therefore, I am in favour of adjusting the school term at De Salis to align with the standard observed universally."

"My only issue is holidays, I would propose Parkside has the same amount of holidays and times as normal curriculum school holidays."

"Please change the holiday to match all other schools."

The following comments were received from stakeholders, as collated through the consultation, and are noted as being in disagreement with the proposal, as outlined:

“The current holidays and terms date are more convenient as allow child to have more suitable time for study and rest. Additionally, too long holiday at summer time is not good as child tend easily to adapt to holiday and relax but after it is difficult to return back to school in September and again reinstate knowledge after long time out. So, it is more efficiently and useful to stick to the old calendar and not to do any changes.”

“We knew what we agree, all plans are according to current schedule.”

It is demonstrated that families and other stakeholders took the opportunity to make written comment through the consultation survey. In short, the overwhelming sense was that the proposal has been met with great enthusiasm, with many comments relating to the notion that proposed arrangements will bring greater flexibility choice.

Conclusion

The Rosedale Hewens Academy Trust has considered all of the feedback received from stakeholders and duly noted all comments made as a result of the consultation. As illustrated, the vast majority of respondents indicated their agreement with the proposal. Accordingly, it is concluded from the responses that stakeholders are overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the change in arrangements for the academic year going forward.

With such a high level of local support, the Trust is well placed to deliver the provision as described to the benefit of stakeholders; thus reinforcing previous findings in terms of the wider interest shown. Based on the above, Trustees are entirely confident of the decision taken to adopt the proposal.

It is therefore deemed as wholly appropriate to align the academic year and terms and holidays in respect of Parkside Studio College and De Salis Studio College, as determined and outlined, effective from September 2023. This means the Autumn Term will now commence on Wednesday 6th September 2023 for all students.

It is acknowledged that a number of parents may require transitional arrangements to be made so their child can continue to attend College in the period 19th August to 5th September 2023, inclusive. In this case, parents will be required to make direct contact with the College by **Friday 4th August 2023**, so that the necessary interim provision can be determined and secured until the new start of term.



This final report, as published, can be reviewed at:
<https://www.parksidestudiocollege.co.uk/parents-guardians-and-carers/consultation>
<https://www.desalisstudiocollege.co.uk/parents-guardians-and-carers/consultation>