

Written evidence submitted by Rosemary Jones

Educational Proposal for consideration: (Updated 29/6/20)

**Extend this academic year to Dec 2020,
from Jan 2021 permanently change to match calendar year and move
examinations to October, November, December.**

Due to the pandemic, may I suggest that all academic establishments in the United Kingdom consider:

1. **Extending this academic year until December 2020, which would be particularly useful in providing extra time to help overcome the problems that Covid-19 has caused to the education of students.**

Time which students have lost this year could be given back to them in the autumn term. Time for years 10 and 12 to continue the especially important first year of their courses, plus a whole year in 11 & 13. Time for college and university students to continue and complete their courses. (Replacing: By bringing the summer holidays forward, e.g. June/July, schools, colleges and universities could re-start in August/September if safe to do so and continue or complete courses.)

Furthermore, all students taking university or accredited exams, could be given the option of taking them in October, November, December and be allowed to use whichever gives them the higher grade, teacher-assessment or exams.

2. **Changing the academic year permanently in 2021 by aligning it with the calendar year from January to December and re-arranging some of the holidays to optimise study and examination conditions for students.**

For example, an earlier, 4-5-week summer holiday, a two-week break in the autumn and a longer holiday for Christmas (which could also provide a saving on heating).

3. **Permanently moving university and accredited examinations to October/November/December.**

It is more conducive to study and easier to concentrate in exams in the cooler weather and shorter days of autumn and winter compared with the heat and distractions of summer.

Avoiding the high pollen levels of summer could prevent students who suffer from hay fever, being seriously disadvantaged.