

### **1. Thank you and good luck for the future!**

As today is my final day at Grindon Hall Christian School as Interim Principal, I would like to thank all parents and carers for the wonderfully warm welcome you have given me and the support you have offered over the last 16 weeks.

Leading Grindon Hall, although for only a brief spell of time, has been a real privilege and honour. The school is a wonderful community, with delightful children and dedicated staff. The care and support given to the children and young people is second to none, and this is a school to be cherished.

As the school moves forward into its exciting future, a new era of success begins within the Emmanuel Schools' Foundation family of schools and I am confident that the vision and ambition for the school that is now in place will lead to very high levels of success in the not too distant future. How wonderful!

Many I take this opportunity to wish all families, staff, and those associated with the school every blessing for the future.

With kindest regards, Chris Robinson  
Interim Principal.

### **2. Goodbye to Mr Kent**

Sadly we also say goodbye to Mr Kent. Thank you to him for all his years of support for the children and families of Grindon Hall Christian School. We wish him the best for the future!

### **3. 2019/20 Revised Term Dates**

Firstly, my sincere thanks to Mrs Robinson who has shepherded and developed Grindon Hall with consummate professionalism over the past couple of terms. The community is greatly indebted to her for this, and I know I speak for all in thanking her greatly.

Following detailed internal consultation, and having listened to a range of concerns, we are pleased to publish final revised term dates for the upcoming academic year 2019/20 (see calendar attached). This is an unusually late change, and we hope parents appreciate that as new sponsors we have acted with utmost priority to address issues with the school's operating model that otherwise remained unresolved.

David Dawes BA (Hons), MA, MEng Executive Principal

Chris Robinson BSc (Hons), MA Interim Principal

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Grindon Hall has recently enjoyed some three weeks of holiday more than 'regular' state-funded schools (i.e. an extra week's holiday between each of the three full school terms). This published change retains a degree of this – being important to the quality and operating model of a small school – but to a slightly reduced extent of now two additional weeks.

The traditional week of 'extra' holiday will now continue at Christmas and Summer breaks. However, Easter break (immediately preceding summer term public exams) is a fortnight in length, as was previously published, consistent with that enjoyed by other state-funded schools.

In September 2019, exceptionally, there is provision for extended INSET for staff who will benefit from training / development as part of joining the Emmanuel Schools Foundation. Autumn term will now begin for students on Monday 9 September 2019.

Summary changes to 2019/20 term dates, compared with previously published:

- Monday 9 Sept 2019 – deferred start to Autumn term for students (exceptionally for 2019)
- Friday 13 Dec 2019 – last day of Autumn term (continuing the established 3-week Christmas holiday)
- Easter 2020 holiday remains at the previously-published 2 weeks
- Friday 10 July 2020 – last day of Summer term (continuing the established 7-week summer holiday)

Once Sunderland has published schools' term dates for 2020/21, we will confirm Grindon Hall's term dates for 2020/21. We very much hope parents will value these adjustments to the previously published calendar. Wishing you a very good half-term break.

Yours sincerely, David Dawes  
Executive Principal

*"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11v28-30)



Aug 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Sep 2019						
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Oct 2019						
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Nov 2019						
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Dec 2019						
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Jan 2020						
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Apr 2020						
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May 2020						
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Jun 2020						
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28	29	30				

Jul 2020						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Amended (23-5-19) dates are identified by bold lines
- 2019/20 year extraordinarily has 5 INSET days, to allow for additional ESF induction and professional development in September.

### Key

	2018/19 year	2019/20 year	2020/21 year onward
Holiday			
School day for students	176 school days	178 school days	180 school days
Weekend			
Staff Training Day	4 INSET days	5 INSET days*	3 INSET days
Bank Holiday	1 additional day		
	181 total days	183 total days	183 total days