

26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

It's the end of the week, the end of the first half of the summer term, and almost the end of the school year. And what a year's it's been, for all of us.

The world we live in has changed so much since this time last year, that sometimes it's tempting to check the date, just to confirm that the news headlines don't form part of an elaborate and alarming April Fool's hoax. This week, I think we've all held our young people extra tight, and wondered if we can pull down the blinds and wait for the storm-clouds to pass.

Tempting as it is to shut out the world, it's half term, the sun is high in the sky, and there's a week just waiting to be filled. I'm heading to the coast later today, for a week of sandcastles and Cornish cream teas, returning just in time to see my home city gripped with football fever next weekend.

If you are not leaving home, there's plenty to keep you occupied in Cardiff next week, and even if there's a revision timetable taped grimly on your kitchen wall, everybody needs to get out for an hour or two, for some fresh air and a change of scene. If the weather holds, a trip to Barry Island for ice-cream and a quick flutter on the arcades is a Bank Holiday classic, and if the rains come (which, let's face it, they will), there's a breathtaking exhibition of paintings by the Turner Prize nominated artist Gillian Ayres, at the National Museum of Wales in Cathays Park.

Whatever you get up to, be it at home or abroad, enjoy the week off school. These times with our children are precious, and need to be savoured and remembered. Happy holidays, see you next week!