



The Consortium Multi Academy Trust

CEO & Principal: Mr Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

Email: principal@consortiumacademy.org

Chair of Board of Trustees & Members: Mrs Dawn Carman-Jones

Email: chair@consortiumacademy.org

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CEO Letter to all Parents, Carers and Guardians

Dear Parent, Carers and Guardians

Season's greetings to you all! It has certainly been a busy and full Autumn Term and I am sure that you as well as your children are very much looking forward to the festive break.

We've had a very successful start to the academic year - our school communities continue to grow, with new children and families joining schools across the Trust all the time, which I believe is a wonderful compliment and testimony to the hard work of the staff in the schools, and of our central team.

We have also had four Ofsted Inspections since January and each school was recognised as being a 'Good' school, which is a fantastic achievement. It was immensely pleasing that in all cases the inspectors acknowledged our focus on developing a broad and balanced curriculum, and the role in which our initiatives such as our Primary Entitlement books, the Scouting section at Yoxford and Peasenhall Primary, Pupil Parliament, Wild Discovery, Educational Visits and the host of Trust wide sporting events, play in enriching the curriculum.

These initiatives are very close to my personal passion for Youth Social Action and Scouting; they not only facilitate learning in an informal way, but support the development of the whole child - their confidence, resilience and leadership skills, in preparation for the next steps in their education and a life long journey of self development to fulfilled lives as adults.

In all inspections it was highlighted that our provision for children who require additional support is 'exceptional', something which I am extremely proud of, as inclusion is at the heart of the ethos and values of our Trust. However, we are not complacent, and are very excited to be working closely with schools and teaching alliances from the specialist sector to further support the development of our SEND provision. We have already had a wonderful response from families who have benefited from our Family Support Workers, which are new posts to our Trust, and hope to develop this offer further, as funding allows. If you are interested in our SEND development, further information can be found on our website at the link address below:

<https://consortiumacademy.co.uk/suffolk/primary/consortium-mat/site/pages/schooltoschoolsupport/sendcollaborations>

Spring 2020 also brings great expectations, including the opening of our all weather, fully refurbished swimming pool at Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary, and our Residential Field Study Centre at Winterton Primary, both of which will not only be available to our Trust schools, but also our communities, external organisations, schools and for private hire.

We are also investing in our staff pool through the Trust's Training & Skills Partnership, headed up by Debbie Thomas, who has joined the central team on a secondment basis, from her role as Academy Head of Rendlesham Primary School. Debbie's job is broad but very exciting – primarily supporting our curriculum development, as well as all Early Career Teachers and working closely with Suffolk SCITT to recruit teacher trainees within our Trust - essentially talent spotting exceptional and outstanding class teachers and school leaders for the future!

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businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org

Work on our new Trust website framework has commenced which we hope will strengthen school collaboration, as well as improve the Trust's presence in our communities. We will be using this platform to engage with parents in real time on social media and improving our offer for Holiday School, our Pool and Field Study Centre with automated online booking and payment systems; we'll let you know once these are up and running.

As an extension of this, I am also keen to develop our parental engagement with the Trust and hope that you have valued the Horizons Home Time Newsletter which our education team at the central office pull together each Term. I am sure you will agree this gives you far more detailed information about the work which goes on behind the scenes at the Trust and in our schools, and hope that you enjoy receiving it. We very much want to hear your thoughts on what you think about us, your school and your child's learning and will be launching some initiatives to increase parent voice and engagement through 2020.

The educational landscape, hand in hand with national politics is never a static one. Occasionally things become more protracted than first presented and often this is because of things outside of our control (our swimming pool for one). As frustrating as this is, we never take the road of least resistance; every decision made within our Trust is for the right reason and always with the best interests of our children and our communities at the forefront of our minds. We always remind ourselves of our public responsibility and duty in educating our pupils and as part of that, raising the educational standards and outcomes of all of our pupils, so that every child thrives to reach their full potential and beyond!

I look forward to seeing all of the children throughout 2020, participating in their very many activities and enrichment opportunities and also hope to meet some of you through our parent engagement focuses. Thank you for sharing this exciting journey with us; I wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Festive regards,

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal
The Consortium Trust