

The Consortium Multi-Academy Trust

Chair of the Members and Board of Trustees: Dawn Carman-Jones

Principal/CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

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6th July 2018

Summer newsletter to our parents and communities from the CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that another year has galloped by and with it fast approaches the Trust's second birthday. While there is always an endless list of things that need to be done; our schools, staff and pupils have achieved so much in such a short space of time.

Pupil numbers are increasing and while I don't have all the attainment results yet we are expecting a good crop of results certainly performing as well as similar Trusts and compared to national benchmarks. We should always exercise some caution with percentages as our small cohorts and our inclusive ethos doesn't always paint a true picture of the efforts on the ground. Trust results will be published early next academic year.

As everyone in the Trust continues to work hard to improve the opportunities and outcomes for our pupils and your children, I can't help but acknowledge the national funding crisis that is facing schools. We are expected to do more with at best the same cash and on occasion with less. One of the advantages of the academy system is that we can think outside the box and develop innovative practices that secure front line provision in schools – school and Trust leadership continually monitor and refine our approach within an ever changing picture, while I hope retaining our focus on supporting pupils to thrive. I would like to mention just a few highlights:

Swimming Pool investment:

I am absolutely delighted to advise you that the *Consortium* Multi Academy Trust have been successful in securing the funding for wholesale redevelopment of the Yoxford and Peasenhall swimming pool. This is an absolutely amazing further investment and commitment to the Trust and wider community. The almost £400 000 project is due to start within the next few months and we hope that it will be completed in time for the new academic year, opening around October 2018.

Artist impression of the new pool.



The new build will include a new pool liner, new boiler house, and replacement of the poly-dome with a solid construction building with lighting and heating/ventilation system. The building will

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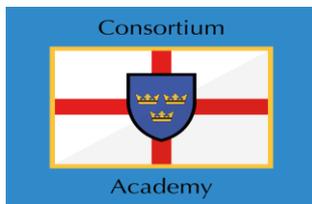
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include sufficient poolside space to seat a class safely as well as new and improved storage. An extension will house two inside ☺ changing rooms and includes toilet and shower facilities. The pool will then become an all year around facility that can be also be used into the evening. A number of Trust schools are lined up to benefit from this new facility.

Helmingham Primary School:

Helmingham Primary School near Stowmarket is scheduled to join Consortium Multi Academy Trust next academic year. I am delighted to be welcoming Mrs Cleland and her team along with the Helmingham Old School House Nursery to the Trust.

New Head of Service – WISA:

Parents will be keen to know that on 1st September we have a new Head of Service – WISA! The role is a full time post and will be very much the front facing part of the Trust central team. I am pleased to introduce to you Mr Shaddick, who will support schools and more importantly parents on 'Welfare, Inclusion, Safeguarding and Attendance' issues, hence the title 'WISA'. This is a significant step forward for the Trust and will be of huge benefit to parents and carers and funded through a special Department for Education grant.

Investing in our colleagues:

I have been working hard with the Education and Learning team to ensure that our staff gets the very best Continued Professional Development (CPD) and training possible. Your children get the best education when they are supported by the best staff.

We have recently been appointed as an Initial Teacher Training centre and are taking on our first recruits this September – growing our own qualified teachers in an area of the country where there is a shortage is a key objective for us. We also have a number of other initiatives that are operating including sponsored 'degree' release, apprenticeships and a raft of training opportunities.

There is a lot going on and with schools in the final fling of the academic year, I was delighted to see our older pupils attending the Trust residential to St Omer in France a huge success and fantastic learning opportunity for all. I continue to visit schools routinely and am looking forward the round of leavers' assemblies, summer performances, discos, special activities over the next few weeks that I am attending. I am so grateful to the huge efforts that all the staff put into our Trust and schools. It is clear that together we have achieved so much and parents always play a part in that.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy and safe summer break.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO / Principal

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