

The Consortium Multi-Academy Trust

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

Principal/CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne

Email: principal@consortiumacademy.org **Tel:** 01379 668283 / 01379 852520

Newsletter to parents – 11th November 2016

Dear Parents and carers,

We have been operating for a little over four months as a Multi-Academy Trust, and I am delighted to write to parents at all our member schools, Glebeland Primary, St Edmund's Primary, Mendham Primary, Middleton Primary and Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary. There is so much to tell you in such a short newsletter, I would encourage you to look at the MATs website where you will find lots of information and further updates – visit us at <https://consortiumacademy.co.uk>

It has been an incredibly busy quarter with lots of developments at school level and across the Trust. Our primary aim during this period was to ensure that all the transitional arrangements from the County Councils to the Trust were as smooth as possible and largely I am pleased to report that they were.

I have also been working hard to support the Middleton and Yoxford & Peasenhall schools as they prepare to officially become academies on the 1st December 2016. I am delighted to be welcoming the two new school sites to our family of schools. There will be official unveilings of the school signs at the sites on the 1st December – individual schools will advise arrangements to their parents.

I would like to pay tribute to our staff at the MAT office and across the schools for their determination in ensuring that our pupils continue to receive a great experience at our schools. We are always looking at how we can do things even better and there will be more news soon regarding a number of exciting developments.

Kind regards

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
Principal / Chief Executive Officer

Staffing Changes

I am delighted to welcome the following staff to Consortium:

Mrs Judy Pymar, Senior Finance Officer – CMAT

Mr Kevin Firman, Estates Senior Assistant - CMAT

Mr Cameron Hopkinson, Apprentice Sports and ODL coach – CMAT

There are also a number of staffing vacancies and details can be found on the Trust website, or alternatively talk to your own officer manager.

Education and Learning Manager – CMAT

Class teacher – Middleton Primary School

Cleaner – St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne

Extended School Staff (various) – Middleton Primary School and Yoxford & Peasenhall Primary School

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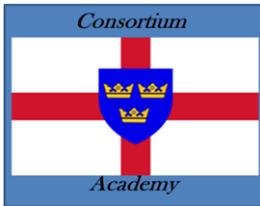
Registered in England and Wales

Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital

Company number **10255142**

Registered office address: Mendham Primary School, Mendham, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 0NJ

Where together excellence and pupils thrive.



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Pupil Admission Number – consultation

The Academy Trust is now the admissions authority for the schools; we are committed to maintaining small, viable schools well into the future. Our schools are also increasingly being seen as schools that provide exceptional provision to our communities and that have caused pressure on our existing sites. We are therefore proposing increases in pupil admission number for a number of sites – we will never routinely have a class of over 30 and our average class size will be usually closer to 20.

Yoxford and Peasenhall Primary School:	PAN to increase from 10 to 15
Mendham Primary School:	PAN to increase from 7 to 10
St Edmund's Primary School, Hoxne:	PAN to increase from 12 to 15

Comments can be sent to principal@consortiumacademy.org.

Do you have the skills to challenge and support at our schools?

The Trust is committed to local community input and support for our schools and have maintained or establishing Local Governing Bodies to provide challenge and support to the schools. We currently have vacancies on the following LGBs – these volunteer roles, are key to school improvement.

The following LGBs are seeking to strengthen their governance teams:

Glebeland Primary School, Toft Monks: contact office@glebeland.norfolk.sch.uk
Waveney Valley Partnership of St Edmund's and Mendham: contact chair@wvpschools.org
Yox Valley Partnership of Middleton, Yoxford & Peasenhall: contact hosityoxford@yoxvalley.org

Technology is great when it works!

The Trust is investing significant amount of money in new technology and systems, most schools have had complete internal re-cabling, upgrades on Broadband supplier, new emails, new financial and management systems. Some schools are experiencing teething problems – please bear with us and if you are missing electronic communications contact you school office manager and they would be delighted to help you.

Severe weather procedures

Existing arrangements to deal with a school closure due to unforeseen issues of severe weather remain in place. The Academy Head will make the decision along with me whether a school is to close and parents will be advised as soon as possible. Website updates, text alerts and local radio stations. If a school is forced to close, staff will be redeployed to a neighbouring (or closest to their home) Trust school. Parents will be advised which Trust schools remain open and where pupils displaced from a closed school can attend (if it is safe to do so). It will always be our intention to keep our schools open, in the event of a closure an alternative provision may be offered.

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