

# **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](mailto:principal@consortiumacademy.org)

## **Staff Autumn Newsletter – September 2018**

### **Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne, CEO**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the new academic year, I hope that the excitement, engagement and enthusiasm that was evident at our education on the first week has transferred into your practice in school. The feedback from you was overwhelmingly positive, we should all be very proud of our Trust, our schools and of course of ourselves.

I am sure that if you watched the BBC Panorama programme 'Profit over Pupils' last Monday that exposed the alleged corruption and financial mismanagement within the Bright Tribe MAT you would have shared my upset and concern that this could have happened. As educators we should all feel rightly angered and ashamed that the academy system could have been exploited in this way.

The very reason why we created *Consortium* was to ensure that this couldn't happen to our schools, we have robust and transparent financial systems in place. We do not allow related party transactions and we have been set up as a mutual Trust and not as a business, the Academies Financial Handbook does not allow us to make a profit. All of the Trust's resources are used exclusively to benefit our schools and our pupils.

Consortium's fundamental aim is to maintain and enhance the position of rural community schools at the heart of our communities across Suffolk and Norfolk. We have a passion for and recognise that for our smaller primary schools to remain vibrant and viable, closer integration and collaborative working is necessary to ensure that our curriculum is exciting, provision is full and the outcomes for pupils are exceptional. Our structure offers the framework to support these schools within a bigger family of schools.

We exist to support our schools, communities and children not as a business but as a mutual co-operative of professionals. Where our schools share financial, physical and intellectual resources, pooling them at the appropriate level with the primary aim to secure better outcomes for our pupils.

I am pleased to advise you that we are holding firm to our ideals and pushing forward with our investments in our schools, staff and pupils. Several projects will be coming to fruition this academic year including the opening of the swimming pool and Yoxford, our Initial Teacher Training centre at Rendlesham and new integrated EYFS provision at Southwold.

I am also pleased to report that Barnby and North Cover have received a cash boost to renovate the internal school environment. I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves in a couple of weeks.

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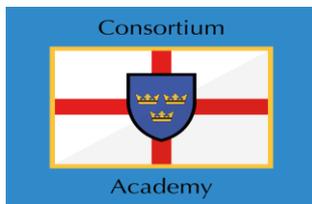
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I am also delighted to advise you that we are working with a number of potential new school partners across Norfolk and Suffolk. One of those is Winterton Primary School and Nursery a small school on the Norfolk coast under threat of closure by the local authority – I have been working with the school and local community over the summer holiday and along with Norfolk County Council and the RSC, I believe we have a viable proposition going forward.

One of the exciting opportunities is that we are exploring is the potential development of a field study and residential centre based at the school which will be able to support 30 pupils. The centre will be situated just a few hundred metres from the beach and dunes, that host a colony of seals and one of the UK largest offshore wind farms. This facility will be open to our pupils to experience the great British seaside hopefully next year.

Our Trust is always exploring, innovating and looking at ways we can enhance our offer to our pupils. Thank you for being a part of that.

Regards

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne  
CEO/Principal

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