



# The Consortium Trust

*Where together excellence and pupils thrive*

## Parent briefing – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some of the British sunshine we had. On behalf of the whole Trust I am delighted to be welcoming you and your child(ren) back to a new academic year. After the disruption, confusion and concern of last year, I am sure we all hope for a more normal year ahead. While we all yearn for normality we have to acknowledge that the pandemic has and will continue to impact on our lives and schools.

I can assure you that we have made our schools safe and happy, much will be the same but some routines and procedures will be different. Each school and setting has undertaken a full risk assessment and these are available from your school or on the schools website. Your Academy Head will also be writing to you in the next day or two with any local arrangements that you need to be aware of. We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday.

### **New core hours – 830am – 330pm**

As I advised back in July, the Trust has revised its core teaching hours, all schools will now operate statutory time with morning register at 830am and school end at 330pm. I would like to stress that pupils are required to attend as outlined. I appreciate that the extension of the school day may cause a few families some short term logistical issues. To support you I have advised Academy Heads to be flexibly while you adjust to the new times. If you have an issue i.e. pre-booked out of school activities or the need to coordinate drop offs for siblings please discuss this with your Academy Head. Attendance at school is really important for your child's academic progress but also for their well-being, the extended school day is designed to increase the amount of contact time with teachers as part of the governments 'catch-up' programme.

For pupils in nursery please check with your setting for the opening hours, as these may be different.

### **Build Back Better**

The Trust has been working with our staff, the Department for Education and other stake holders to create a strategy that aims to support children back into full time education. We are initially focussing on getting all our pupils 'learn ready', through transition work and well-being programmes. Our extended school day is another strand, we will also be accessing small group and 1:1 tutor programmes for some children, due to start in October 2020. By January 2021 we will also be rolling out an optional new curriculum enrichment programme (330-430pm). Programme and details will be issued by your school.

### **New Developments**

Over the summer the central team including our estate management team have been working incredibly hard to ensure that we are covid-secure and ready to welcome all pupils back. We have refurbished and redecorated various locations, major projects including Helmingham School's refurbishment and Yoxford and Peasenhall swimming pool are close to completion. With a major renovation of Henley School now underway.

Registered in England and Wales, Private Limited Company by guarantee, without share capital. Company number: 10255142.

Registered office address: 27 Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BX.

[www.consortiumacademy.org](http://www.consortiumacademy.org). Tel.No: 01986 835670. Email: [businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org](mailto:businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org)

Principal & CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne. Email: [principal@consortiumacademy.org](mailto:principal@consortiumacademy.org)



# The Consortium Trust

*Where together excellence and pupils thrive*

We have upgraded a lot of software and systems, including the launch of our fresh new look website for the Trust and all our schools and settings:

You can access the site from here: <https://www.consortiumacademy.org.uk/>

Most excitingly of all we have turned around a closed nursery school, recruiting an entire staff team, redecorating, re-equipping in under four weeks and I am delighted to welcome the Kirkley Nursery and EYFS Centre of Excellence as our twelfth establishment.

## **Welcome to new staff**

In addition to our new nursery colleagues at Kirkley, we also welcome a new Academy Head for Borders, newly recruited teachers, teaching assistants and apprentices across the Trust – this is at a time when other schools are cutting staff and this is a further example of our Trust's commitment to excellence in education in our settings and for our pupils. I would like to offer a heartfelt welcome to all our new colleagues.

## **COVID-Secure**

As you will expect I have been monitoring the updating DfE guidance over the summer in relation to government response to the covid-19 pandemic. I am confident that our schools and settings have everything in place for your child's return. The DfE have recently updated its advice to parents and you can read it here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm\\_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

I have also attached a leaflet from the Department for Education that you may find useful.

## **Face coverings**

As you will have seen on the news, the Government has recently reversed its guidance on the wearing of face coverings. This does not affect primary schools where the guidance states that transmission in primary children remain very low and therefore masks are not required for children.

While transmission and the effects of the covid-19 on health advice appears to be negligible. I also have a duty of care to my staff, I have therefore ensured that our schools have a stock of transparent face shields that staff may choose to wear if they wish.

Registered in England and Wales, Private Limited Company by guarantee, without share capital. Company number: 10255142.

Registered office address: 27 Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8BX.

[www.consortiumacademy.org](http://www.consortiumacademy.org). Tel.No: 01986 835670. Email: [businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org](mailto:businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org)

Principal & CEO: Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne. Email: [principal@consortiumacademy.org](mailto:principal@consortiumacademy.org)



# The Consortium Trust

*Where together excellence and pupils thrive*

## Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

If you require any further reassurance or advice, our schools and settings are open today and Wednesday for staff training and we would be delighted to take your call/email. We are here to help you and support your child's full transition back to school.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne  
CEO & Principal

Cc: Locality Committee  
Members and Trustees