



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

Weekly Staff briefing

26th June 2020

Dear Colleagues

As I write I am still waiting for clear guidance from the DfE regarding our next steps, but I am aware that our schools are working with full 'bubbles' of happy children and for the most part happy parents. This is a real testament to the work that each and every one of you is doing. So once again thank you for your efforts. With four weeks to go to the end of term and the academic year I can confirm the following knowns in a fast moving educational landscape.

1. There will be no requirement in our Trust to run any educational provision over the summer holiday.
2. A national £1 billion catch-up and tutoring fund has been launched and we will receive our share of those resources in due course.
3. Government stated position is that all children will return to education in September, although it is unclear of what restrictions will be in place (if any).
4. Children must be central to our planning and decision making, every child deserves a quality education and we will have six months of disrupted teaching and learning to address.

In preparation for the end of term, I have decided that we will close all schools to all currently attending pupils, in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 6, vulnerable pupils and Key Worker children with the last day being Friday 17th July. Academy Heads have been planning for face to face contact for all other children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 and new intake reception for the final three days of term, 20th – 22nd July. The hope is that all children will have least had the opportunity to experience a school day before we close for the summer break.

I am working on several recovery plans for September, and all indicators are pointing to the lifting of the 15 per class rule and any requirement for pupils to socially distance in school. This is yet to be confirmed but there appears to be a refocus of emphasis on hygiene. In preparation we have invested in additional bio-security measures including external handwashing stations as modelled by Rendlesham Primary below. These will be deployed to schools along with hand held thermometer guns in the next few weeks.



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

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It is currently my expectation that from September we will be operating 'normal' size classes. We will continue to have some of the existing control measures including restricting access to our buildings, minimising movement around schools, no off-site learning opportunities or swimming throughout the autumn term.

Academy Heads and the Trust Board have been discussing our response to the obvious issue of a cohort of children that have missed almost 6 months of education. Whatever we do it must be equitable and addresses the needs of all our pupils, short term and bolt on responses just will not be adequate. To support our thinking and develop our strategy I have created an 'Educational Catch-up Working Party' and I am delighted to announce that the following colleagues have agreed to contribute to our strategy.

Liz Frere-Smith, Head of Service People
James Vink, Senior Teacher, St Edmund's Primary School
Joel Vaughan, Teacher, Rendlesham Primary School
Tom Hardy, Teacher, Rendlesham Primary School
Caroline Rankin, Academy Head, Winterton Primary School
Jo Newton, Teaching Assistant, Borders Partnership
Gail Jerman, Academy Head, Yox Valley Partnership
Caroline Townsend, Senior Teacher, Henley Primary School
Mandy Fayers, Teaching Assistant, Helmingham Primary School
Tamsin Little, Director of Primary Education

I am keen to use the crisis and disruption that Covid-19 has caused to look at what, how and when we do things in school. I believe that we have an opportunity here to be radical and innovative. The working party will produce a report before the end of term.

I am also delighted to launch the recruitment campaign for our twelfth establishment, Kirkley Nursery near Lowestoft which will open in September 2020 and we are now looking for passionate and committed individuals to join the staff team. Please circulate this news to your friends and family that may be interested.

Kirkley Nursery
Staff Recruitment Fayre
for Highly Qualified Early Years Practitioners
Wednesday 15th July 9:30a.m. - 3:30p.m.
Nursery opening Thursday 3rd September
8:00a.m. - 5:30p.m. Mon-Fri, open 50 weeks per year
For children of 6 months to 4 years of age
Drop in, or email us to arrange a visit at:
businesssupport@consortiumacademy.org
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It has been without doubt the strangest and most intense academic year that any of us could have imagined, but we have as a Trust got through the worst of a global pandemic with dignity and respect. Together we have risen to the challenges, exceeded the expectations made of us and throughout allowed our humanity and care to shine through.

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members
Locality Committee members