



The Consortium Trust

Where together excellence and pupils thrive

Covid-19 update for Parents and Carers

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In last week's newsletter I spoke about the opportunities and anxieties of change, I am able to outline further today some of the changes that we will see the next academic year. It is important to recognise that since March as a community we have collectively demonstrated our ability to adapt and change in a rapidly changing landscape, we have shown determination, grit and resilience probably beyond our own expectations.

As we move firmly into the recovery stage of this crisis we must continue to treat each other with respect and humility, understanding that like the children that we all have different starting points and our journey towards the end goal will need to be personalised. I do this job for one reason and one reason only and that is to have a positive impact on the children that we serve. It is often said that education is more than a job it is a vocation – with children having one shot at it. As we say goodbye to our Year 6 cohort, never is it more obvious of the transient passing through of children in our schools. We have an absolute duty to ensure that we do everything we can to make that journey through our hands as successful as possible.

We simply cannot ignore the fact that our current cohort of children have missed out, in spite of the best efforts of our school staff and those of many parents, like you, that have taken up the mantle of home educators. Your children will return in September with significant gaps, we need to consider how we 'catch up'.

In response to the Governments guidance to ensure that pupils 'catch up' the Trust set up the 'Build Back Better' working party, to look at how we could achieve this but also take this opportunity to be even more radical in an attempt to not only catch up but to transform our Trust, championing all children no matter of background or ability and tackle some of the underlining inequality in the education system.

There is a saying that "if you continue to do what you have always done, you will always get the same result" that is just not an option, nor would it be right. I have been working with the Build Back Better working party, consulting with unions, Locality Committee Chairs group, Executive Team, Academy Heads, Trust Board and reviewing guidance and evidence from across the educational sector. I truly believe that the work of the group highlights our place as an ethical Trust placing children and families at the heart of what we do.

The key recommendation of the working party, that will have the most impact positively on our pupils, is the change to the core school hours. **From September 2020 our school opening and closing will be aligned across the Trust, all schools will open registration at 0830 and school will end for all pupils at 1530.** The change to the school day will provide your children with critical additional contact time with classroom staff to support the process of catching up.

For those families that use school transport, I am currently liaising with school transport to confirm arrangements for the new term.

The Build Back Better working party were also very keen to address the inequality in after school club opportunities for some children, recognising that some children are fortunate to access additional activities outside school ie, swimming, dance, music, rugby, arts and more. The Trust will be therefore introducing a **FREE curriculum enrichment hour from 1530-1630 at every school site**, this will be an additional and optional extension to the

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school day, we intend to provide a variety of subjects that may include languages, art, drama, dance, outdoor activities, science and maths clubs, reading cafes and more. The provision will not be available immediately in September but we will be working up the programmes at school level and it will be phased in and fully embedded by the end of the autumn term.

For families that require breakfast club and extended school club provision they can continue to access that where there is parental demand, additional charges will apply for this provision.

While I have attempted to give you as much information as possible before schools close for the summer, there are still many unknowns and I am awaiting news from the DfE on funding, further updates on re-opening, building projects and more. Many of the central team will be working during the school closure period and to ensure that you get the information as soon as possible I will be writing two Trust newsletters during August, these will be sent directly to you.

It really has been a year like no other, and I am grateful for the overwhelming support received from you, I have been delighted to see some of the Year 6 leavers' assemblies and performances – if they are anything to go by we can be satisfied that we have a cohort of resilient, confident young people about to embark on a new and exciting journey to high school. So as we turn to the summer holiday, may I wish you all a very restful and safe summer – as the summer day's stretch ahead please be assured that we will continue to work at the schools to prepare them for all children to return in September. We are here, should you need us – please see the attached leaflet from the Trust Inclusion Team, with details of some boredom buster activities and an email helpline that will be monitored daily.

Take care

Yours sincerely

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members
Locality Committee members



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BOREDOM BUSTING SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

1. Build a den somewhere inside or out. Some ideas to make a great den. <https://www.noandnani.co.uk/den-building-ideas-for-the-best-dens-ever-i43>
2. Create your own character using either Lego or other resources.
3. Make your own papier mache volcano and watch it erupt. <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/paper-mache-volcano-1253091#:~:text=%20How%20to%20Make%20a%20Paper-Mache%20Volcano%20That,family%20to%20view%20the%20eruption.%20Place...%20More%20>
4. Go on a scavenger hunt and then use items to create a collage
5. Wildlife/minibeast hunt. Take a jar and magnifying glass. See how many bugs you can discover.
6. Make a bug house <https://www.redtedart.com/simple-bug-hotel-for-kids/>
7. Junk modelling - make a famous landmark. How about the Eiffel Tower or Orwell Bridge.
8. Make galaxy slime <https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-Make-Galaxy-Slime/>
9. Origami <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/easy-origami-kids>
10. Make your own boat/raft and then test it out- <https://nurturestore.co.uk/how-to-make-a-toy-boat>
<https://www.craftprojectideas.com/craft-stick-raft/#:~:text=%20Instructions%20%201%20Step%201.%20.%20Gather,mast%20to%20secure%20the%20shape.%20%20More%20>
11. Make a banana cake/ fruit cake https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/easiest_ever_banana_cake_42108
12. Mini Olympics <https://www.partyacks.co.uk/blogs/party-inspiration/host-your-own-mini-olympic-games-for-kids-ideas-for-kids-olympic-activities-games-sports-day-party>
13. Basic biscuits https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/icedbiscuits_3054
14. Free School Meals – if your family qualify for free school meals you can sign up for free fun family cooking kits from www.pinkorange.co.uk
15. Suffolk libraries are open again and have lots of resources and ideas to entertain children at home and outside. Find out more at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/advice/parenting-advice/resources-for-parents-and-children-at-home>

WELLBEING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Staff from the Consortium Trust Inclusion Team will be able to respond to emails and call families who need support over the summer. We can put you in touch with local services, make referrals to other agencies or give you a call to discuss any problems. Please get in touch at advice@consortiumacademy.org

**we can
help**