

The Consortium Multi Academy Trust

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Next week and beyond

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all I would like to thank you for the overwhelming support and praise that you have sent in, this has been very heartening for all of us working through this. Colleagues at our 11 schools and central office at Halesworth are working tirelessly to ensure your children are safe and receive the best possible support and education in these difficult times. We all appreciate your support – THANK YOU.

All children will receive online and virtual teaching during this disruption, and I would urge you to engage with this. You will receive a link soon along with further information regarding our 'google-classrooms' I understand that access may be difficult for some and we will support families if this is the case. My education team will also be sending out recommended reading lists, suggested activities and links to a range of free resources that you can access. Class teachers will be available for daily 'remote' contact with classes.

As you will be aware from my earlier letter the arrangements from Monday onwards will be to provide key worker children and certain vulnerable groups of pupils a physical education and childcare provision. This will be at one of our seven 'education centres' as recorded below. Please note that our other school sites will be closed to everyone from 4pm this afternoon.

Educational Centre Locations	Covering the following schools	Centre Leader
GLEBELAND	Barnby & North Cove and Glebeland	Debbie Thomas
MENDHAM	Mendham & St Edmund's	Susie Collins
RENDLESHAM	Rendlesham	Kevin Speirs
HENLEY	Henley & Helmingham	Steph Hawes
WINTERTON	Winterton	Caroline Richardson
SOUTHWOLD	Southwold	Bernie Cleland
YOXFORD	Yoxford & Peasenhall and Middleton	Gail Jerman

You will receive today a letter and short survey from the Trust's education team – please read this carefully and respond to the survey as soon as you can. The basic advice is, that unless you have a child in a vulnerable group and you have the ability to look after your child at home, they should stay at home. For parents that fall into a key worker category we have a duty to provide you with a place. I need the information back from you as soon as possible so that I can ensure sufficient staff are at the right centres.

Hours Our education centres will be open to receive children between 8:30am and 4pm. We are unable to extend beyond this period. There are no additional fees for this period.

Uniform and expectations These will be exactly the same for those attending the education centres, pupils attending will be required to follow school routines and expectations. Uniform should be worn and a PE kit should be on site, we will be engaging pupils in outdoor play and sport where we can.

Health checks All attendees must be fit and well to attend, education centre leaders have the right to refuse entry and we may take temperatures.

School transport (where applicable) I have been advised by Norfolk CC that school transport will continue for at least next week, I am unaware of any details regarding school travel provision in Suffolk.

Free school meals for children that are entitled to free school meal provision, this will continue as usual for children attending our Education Centres. Lunches for other attendees can be ordered and purchased as normal. For children that are entitled to free school meals who are not attending a centre – we are setting up a food voucher scheme as quickly as we can and will start to get funding to out as soon as possible.

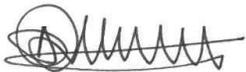
Staffing, safeguarding and safety All of our staff that are able will be attending work as normal throughout this period and the central team will be reduced to an absolute minimum, being redeployed to our education centres. The government will be relaxing restrictions that we usually work to including class sizes, staff qualifications, food standards etc. This will allow me the flexibility to manage our resources effectively, I assure you that throughout, we will operate diligently and safely at all times. In the event that I consider the situation is approaching unsafe I may need to close or merge an educational centre as a last resort.

Staying in touch In the coming weeks it will be important that we stay in touch and that education for our pupils remain valid and important. From next week we will be issuing a weekly newsletter 'Horizon's Home Time' that will be non-Covid-19 related and focus on news and activities from our education centres and home-learners. Highlighting the great work and fun that we can continue to have and share.

Easter break The government appears to be requiring us to maintain the same provision as outlined above indefinitely and this is likely to include the traditional Easter holiday. With the exception of the bank holidays it is likely that the education centres will need to operate. I am awaiting clarification from the DfE on this and will advise you as soon as possible. It is my view that families should try to have as normal an Easter as possible and stay at home if they can – holidaying in your garden and hopefully enjoying some 'socially distant' outdoor pursuits in the spring sunshine.

Assuring you of my best intentions, and wishing you and your families' good health during these difficult times. Most importantly of all, for all the mothers out there – I hope that whatever your circumstances currently you know that you are valued and loved. I hope you have the opportunity to celebrate in some way on Mothering Sunday. I am so proud of the *Consortium* family, everyone is being amazing.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members
Locality Committee members
All staff