

The Consortium Multi Academy Trust

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Government announcement to restrict access to schools

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have heard on the news yesterday evening the Government has announced significant changes for schools. As a front line public service I would like to pay a personal and heartfelt thanks to all our staff, there are some true examples of community minded action by some amazing school staff. In the face of unprecedented circumstances they have maintained provision at our school sites. But from 330pm Friday the physical school will be closed to the majority of children, but we will be required to provide education to all our pupils. For most this will mean virtual teaching we have been working on how we can deliver that and instructions will be sent out as soon as possible. **But, for identified key workers children and vulnerable pupils we are required in law to provide a physical school place.** The news headline that schools are closed is misleading.

All parents and carers will receive a survey link in the next two days asking you to advise whether you fall into the government's key worker list, which as it stands includes:

- NHS staff
- Police and emergency services
- Delivery drivers
- Social and care workers
- Others (the government is due to publish an expanded list later today)

Also whether you wish to take up a place at one of the Trust's seven 'educational centres'. Some parents will be contacted directly and offered a place as per the Governments 'vulnerable' group strategy.

School meal service, the Trust will be working with our contract catering teams to ensure that food is available at the centres for as long as it is manageable. The Government is also going to publish the details for the free school meal provision for entitled children that are not permitted to attend the educational centres. This may be in the form of lunch collections from our kitchens initially and longer term in the form of food vouchers.

The Trust's Critical Incident Team will meet again on Friday to agree the precise working arrangements for the centres and I will advise you of those arrangements before the close of school on Friday. Educational centres will operate as normally as a school as possible, with lessons (largely activity based but also participating in the quality work provided by teachers for the virtual classes), breaks and lunch provided. All educational centres will operate between 830am and 4pm (this is contact time for children).

Throughout this period the Trust remains responsible for the education of your child and we will keep in touch with all families routinely. Equally parents may contact teachers and Centre leaders if they have questions or issues that they would like to raise, this should be done via email and Centre leaders will provide a staff contact list within the first week of operation. It is essential that we keep contact with one another and ensure that disruption and distress is minimised for the children.

Parents and carers should note the location and Centre leader at this point, please also note that transport arrangements (if any) to a Centre is unclear currently and parents should assume that you will need to drop off and collect from outside the building at the times specified above:

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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

I am certain there will be very many questions, but can I please ask that you raise them with me, but allow time for a response. Advice and guidance is still coming through with regards to the requirements of this provision. We are all faced with some incredibly difficult decisions in the coming weeks and potentially months, the most important way for us to get through this as a community is to recognise that everyone is working for the collective good. All decisions are based on the advice available to us at the time of making a decision, and the practicalities that are presented to us. We all want to be safe while providing a public service. It is important during these troubling times to be kind.

Assuring you of my best intentions, and wishing you and your families good health during these difficult times

Yours sincerely



Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO & Principal

Cc: Trust Board and Members