

The Consortium Academy Trust

News@TCAT



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

December 2020

 @ConsortiumTrust



Seasons Greetings 



Dave McCready

CEO

Welcome to the festive edition of News@TCAT

commitment shown at all levels across the Trust over the summer was inspirational and thankfully we were able to welcome all groups of learners back at the start of the term.

Staff and learners were required to quickly learn the new routines and protocols that were put in place to safeguard everyone. Headteachers have told me that the vast majority of our learners returned to school with a positive attitude and that on the whole this has been maintained throughout the term. This is quite an achievement and reflects the good relationships between school and families.

Attendance over this term has been very good and is well above the national average. We have experienced positive test results for staff and learners and, as a result, bubbles have been sent home to self-isolate, increasing the pressure on everyone. Staff across the Trust have risen to the challenges posed by the pandemic and, despite the difficulties, we have been able to maintain quality provision for all through our Blended Learning programme. Feedback from learners and parents has been complimentary, with reference made to the fact that, over the term, the quality of this provision has continued

to improve and develop. The fact that over 400 colleagues have accessed the Blended Learning training programme demonstrates the professionalism and commitment of our workforce.

I know that workload has increased due to the pandemic and Headteachers have reported to me how staff have stepped up to mark to ensure that our schools remain open, keeping children and young people safe, providing pastoral support and continuing to deliver educational provision.

For many learners, school has provided a sense of 'normality' during these stressful times. This link with normal life is really important for the mental health and well-being of us all, but it could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of every member of staff across the Trust.

On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank you for your support and commitment this term and as we look towards a brighter 2021, with the increasing probability of a vaccine, can I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we reach the end of an extremely challenging term, I would like to thank you all for your hard work over the last 3 months.

This term has probably been the most stressful that any of us have faced or are likely to experience in our career.

I know the summer term was hard, but I believe the challenge of fully opening our academies to all learners this September, and then keeping them open throughout the second national lockdown, has been more difficult. The fact that we were able to re-open in September was a feat in itself and required a huge amount of planning and preparation in order to ensure that our schools were as Covid-safe as possible. The leadership and



Virtual Teacher Conference

A reminder that our Annual TCAT Teacher Conference will be delivered in a slightly different way this year through a @TCAT Live Teams event.

Taking place on the first day back after the Christmas break, it will be held in classrooms in your home school.

Guest speakers are Tom Sherrington and Abed Ahmed and it promises to provide us with what we anticipate will be a very positive start to the New Year.



Claire Gordon

Marketing and Communications
Manager

Marketing Update



I am delighted to welcome Matt Nicholson to the Marketing team.

Matt joined the TCAT Central Services Marketing team as a Graphic Designer in November, having previously worked for many years at Winfred Holtby Academy. The expansion of the team will allow us the capacity to provide additional in-house services across the Trust and all of our academies.



Please contact the team at marketing@consortiumtrust.co.uk for more information.



Can I also take this opportunity to remind everyone to continue sending me any good news stories, or developments that you are involved in, at an academy or Trust level, which can then be shared with colleagues through this newsletter and other platforms.

Farewell

We wish a fond farewell to Katy Hind, Director of Finance.

Katy has been an integral part of the Trust Leadership Team since its inception in 2017 and we wish her all the best as she moves to pastures new.

I hope my passion, drive and enthusiasm for perfection will take the Trust's graphic design work forward and to the next level.



Friendly and supportive

I joined TCAT as the Payroll Manager at the end of October.

Originally from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, myself and my husband decided to move to the East Riding of Yorkshire two years ago.

My payroll career started in 1982, when I joined a small family run printing/stationery business and realised whilst working there that I found payroll fascinating! So much so that, in later years, I went on to gain my Foundation in Payroll and Diploma in Payroll Management, as well as various other qualifications when I became part of a team within a Payroll Bureau.

Primarily I have worked within the NHS Sector since 1998, with my last job being at Burlington Care, Bridlington as a Payroll Officer. I have over 26 years of payroll experience and I consider myself to be a self-motivated and reliable professional. I love being challenged and I'm not afraid of hard work.



Jeannette Pegg
Payroll Manager at TCAT

During the short time I've been here at TCAT, I have found everyone friendly and supportive, especially when I first joined and, due to the current situation, we all went into lockdown. It has given me the opportunity to ease into the job, something that I am grateful for. I was really pleased when I was offered the job and I know the decision I made to join TCAT was the right one for me and hopefully for everyone I work with! I am really looking forward to working with the team.

Implementing a strategy to improve results



Paul Scott
Hessele High School

I am currently a Curriculum Leader for Computer Science at Hessele High School, a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) for Hull and East Riding Schools and the Computing at School Secondary Community Leader.

I have been teaching for twelve years, six of which have been at my current school. During this time, I have been able to embed Computer Science into Key Stages 3, 4 & 5 as previously it was an option subject where the uptake was not what it could be. Now, we have a large amount of students wanting to study the subject at GCSE and it is starting to prove popular at A-Level too. Our first cohort of Sixth Form students developed a widely praised prototype, which was an Employability Passport App to work alongside the paper-based Employability Passport that supports Careers education around the county.

After the success of implementing a strategy to improve results and uptake at GCSE level, I was asked if I would like the opportunity to apply to become a SLE. Once accepted, I have been able to offer support to schools within and outside the Trust ranging from assessment profile work to improving results. I have really enjoyed this work and thankfully the support has had a positive impact on not just

the schools I have worked with but on my own CPD too as there is a lot of good practice going on that you rarely get to see as a relative outsider.

Being a SLE has definitely opened doors to wider ranging projects such as coordinating a County Wide Mock exam project where schools sat the same exam paper, shared results and we created a “where are the gaps” analysis and further support was offered/given to support schools with their delivery of identified topics. As part of my SLE role I was asked to work closely with members of the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) on a transition project, which is a scheme of learning that will encompass Year 5 through to Year 8/9 to ensure consistency of approach across the Trust’s schools as we deliver aspects of Computer Science to our younger learners, while supporting staff who teach this.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what other exciting opportunities arise throughout our Trust to drive Computer Science forward in the future.

I have really enjoyed this work and thankfully the support has had a positive impact on not just the schools I have worked with but on my own CPD too.



Community

Allotment

Scheme



Dave Haywood
Cottingham High School

We're delighted that our Community Allotment Project has been chosen to benefit as a Co-op Local Community Fund.

At a time when funds for community groups and charitable organisations are becoming more difficult to access, we're incredibly grateful for this opportunity to make a real difference to us and everyone in the local area. Our project will focus on bringing together the past, present and future generations of the village of Cottingham, through gardening and working together on an allotment scheme.

With the epidemic of loneliness in society ever increasing in both young and older generations, we have a moral responsibility to bring our generations together so that they can learn from and connect with each other. Through the opportunity of sharing stories and enjoying the company, wisdom and unique insight that different generations have to offer, new friendships can be forged and horizons and aspirations allowed to blossom. This will allow the growth of mutual respect whilst minimising ageism. We have many budding gardeners without their own garden and huge allotment waiting lists. At Cottingham, we have a large area

of untended land that will be put to this great purpose, helping the development of the school in becoming a community hub.

There is an ethical need to educate the younger generations about the ever-growing need for sustainable food and green areas. Has there ever been a better time to break out your wellies, wheelbarrow, forks and trowels and come together? In the first instance, we would like to buy gardening tools and equipment, along with seating to start our community allotment scheme.

To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op Members. When a member buys selected branded products and services, the Co-op will give a helping hand to local causes like ours. Co-op members can select us as their local cause by visiting <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/48007>
Thanks for your support.

MERCURE HALLOWEEN



'Thanks to all schools for your support with this and a huge well done to all the children that took part.'

Helen Newton at Mercure

Thanks to all those schools who promoted the Mercure Halloween Competition with our families.

The Mercure were keen to support positive family time as this is so important for our young people and some have missed it after the period of lockdown when we all return to busy lives. We had some great entries from across the age range within the Trust and they showed some really fabulous talent.

Three members of the Events Team picked their favourite separately to give the following winners:

First Place – **Alice Buckley**
Runner Up – **Rex Radford**
Runner Up – **Cain Hilton**



Well done to these children - a clean sweep for Croxby Primary!



A unique time to get into teaching



Victoria Woodmansey
NQT at Wolfreton

This year has been a year like no other and, as an NQT embarking on their career, it is far from the first year of teaching I had envisaged!

Back in the summer, I was thrilled to have secured my new role in the MFL department at Wolfreton yet, as September approached, this eager anticipation was met with not only the general concerns of any NQT ahead of their first teaching role but also the recognition that the return would be the most unrecognisable of all due to the global pandemic and its nature to impact on all that we know.

As the new academic year began, I was made to feel very welcome by all; everyone acknowledges that this is a unique time to start teaching and my colleagues have been incredibly understanding and supportive. Guidance, training and policies about keeping safe at school, as well as the delivery of blended learning, were comprehensive and clearly had been created with careful consideration. Very

soon my initial concerns seemed less daunting.

Whether it be suggestions on Covid-compliant teaching strategies to add to my repertoire, a friendly smile at morning roll call or a delightful piece of work emailed to me by a student, the school community around me has helped keep my spirits high. I have found opportunities during this 'new normal' such as exploring the use of technology in my teaching, which I will be incorporating into my future practice after a positive reception from students. I have also reflected on my ability to adapt in new or unexpected situations and an appreciation of my resilience during these ever-changing times. Although the coming months may still hold some uncertainty, this first term has felt like a real achievement.



Mind are running virtual drop ins on Tuesdays 4.30-6.30 to give advice and signposting info for anyone that needs it - *Virtual Information Drop-in - Mind HEY - Hull & East Yorkshire Mind* (heyhound.org.uk)

Virtual Information Drop-ins

heyhound.org.uk



Reflect with kindness not judgement

This final newsletter of 2020 really got me thinking about how we want to finish the year.



Jennie Ellis

Mental Health Support Worker

Jennie.ellis@consortiumtrust.co.uk

Grateful

Christmas 2020 looks very different to what our plans may have been or different to Christmases gone by. Ongoing restrictions mean a lot of the Christmas traditions we enjoy are not happening this year – nativity plays, carol concerts, spending time with family, physically, might not be possible. This doesn't mean we can't find joy in the season.

Stay in your own lane

It's so easy to get swept away with what others are doing, getting, buying etc that we forget what's important for us.

"Comparison is the thief of joy."

- Theodore Roosevelt

This quote really struck me. Social media is a big platform for encouraging comparisons, but there are also other ways it creeps into our lives. Recognise them and commit yourself to being deeply grateful for what is in your life, what you really enjoy. This will also guide us to being less vulnerable to comparison.

Find new meaning to Christmas

Create your own advent activity calendar, finding something to do each day, be it watch a movie, bake some mince pies, make a Christmas decoration! Search activity advent for some more ideas.

Reflect

Give back

Giving back truly allows us to feel that 'helpers' high! Helping others or organisations has perhaps never been so important as it is now! Check in on that colleague you know is struggling, check in on that neighbour who is on their own. Donate to local food banks.

Reflect on 2020

The key is to reflect with kindness not judgement.

How are you choosing to reflect on the last 12 months?

What has it taught you?

What are you feeling proud of?

What were you great at?

Think about what you want to let go of before we head into a new year.

A little bit of self-reflection now will help you gain awareness of what you want to get out of 2021!

And finally, **be in the moment!**

What does this mean? Being mindful of the here and now and not preoccupied by worries or anxieties about the past or future. You stay connected with the now and everything around you, ultimately reducing your worries and anxiety. Write sticky notes to remind you to stay in the present. Think how pleasant this moment is and reward yourself, flip through a magazine, call a friend, indulge in a bath.

Kindness

Mindful

Hope you all have a lovely Christmas break and a Happy New Year!