

News@TCAT

November 2020

 @ConsortiumTrust



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST



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this month focus on
some of the professional
development
opportunities that are
available to all
colleagues at TCAT.*



Dave McCready

CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of News@TCAT

approach will have the desired impact of bringing the infection rates under control remains to be seen, but our role remains the same, to provide the best possible educational experience for all learners.

As ever, the contributions made by all colleagues are very much appreciated and the fact that all of our schools remained open over the last half term is testament to the collective efforts of everyone. As we enter the winter months I suspect that we will be further tested and the importance of being able to work collaboratively as part of TCAT will again prove vitally important.

It is crucial that we continue to support each other, follow the guidance issued by the government and do all we can to stay safe and well. It is clear that the next few weeks are going to be stressful for many of us and the article written by Jennie Ellis, one of our Mental Health Support Workers, offers some practical advice

related to 'coping strategies'.

We know that the current situation impacts on the education we can provide to our learners, especially those who need to stay at home, and colleagues across the Trust have worked hard developing learning resources that can be used as part of our Blended Learning provision. This approach is underpinned by a robust ICT infrastructure and Dave Brooke, Head of ICT, provides an update regarding the ongoing developments in this area.

Our remaining articles this month focus on some of the professional development opportunities that are available to all colleagues at TCAT.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work over the last half term.

Stay safe,

Regards
Dave

Welcome to the latest edition of our Trust newsletter, which has been published just as we are preparing to enter into a national lockdown that will hopefully last no more than four weeks.

It is clear that the government recognises the importance of keeping schools open, even during these challenging times. Whether this

“ ***It is crucial that we continue to support each other.*** ”

CORONAVIRUS

TAKE: CARE 

NOTICE 

ACTION 



David Brooke

Head of ICT

ICT Update



It's always a busy time in September and this year was no exception for the team who resolved just over 3000 calls last term.

The team have had to adapt from traditionally supporting colleagues and learners within the school setting to supporting learners (and some parents) directly at home where possible. With the introduction of Blended Learning and on-going support we have purchased 500 web cams which have been distributed around the Trust, in addition to 100+ visualisers purchased at Winifred Holtby Academy, Wolfreton School and Sixth Form College and Holderness Academy & Sixth Form College. The Trust have received 400+ laptops from the DfE to extend our support for learners at home – the rollout of this has been quite complicated due to the network configuration, which the team are resolving by standardising our approach.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members to the ICT Team. Ed Cooper and Toni Holmes, who are both based at Winifred Holtby Academy, joined us from the 1st September after taking the ICT Services in-house.

Ed

Toni



Some interesting facts about our Office 365 tenancy: ↓



Office 365 Facts



Office 365

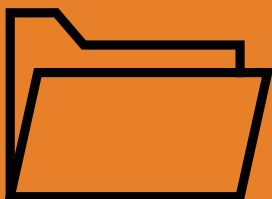
55.2%

Our Office 365 adoption rate in September was 55.2%



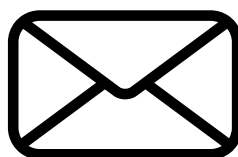
Microsoft Teams is our biggest communication tool being used in the Trust followed by email.

1,000,000

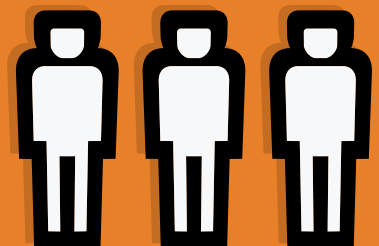


We have over 4700 active users of Office 365 and now have over 1 million files stored in OneDrive.

378000



378000 emails were read in September, with 111000 being sent.



Every member of staff, as well as all learners, have access to Office 365.

Feeling like I am part of a team



Tracy Lawson
Keyingham Primary

I have worked at Keyingham Primary for twelve years as a member of support staff, having various roles, including 1:1, lunch cover, Enhanced Provision and ELSA. I am currently the DDSL, Child Protection Manager and the ELSA for the school.

In the Summer term of 2019, all the staff had their confidence knocked and the mood within the building dropped to an all time low, OFSTED rated us inadequate!!

We knew what this would mean, a multi academy trust would come in and take over. I had heard that they come in and change everything, including sacking all the TAs.

It was an anxious time waiting to hear which Trust we would be joining. I was told by the Head from another school that TCAT would be the best option. So, when I heard it was TCAT I didn't feel quite as anxious but it still left a lot of uncertainty. During this uncertain period, I told myself I would give it a go, embrace the changes, see how it went as I loved my job but I could always leave if it was no longer the right job for me!!

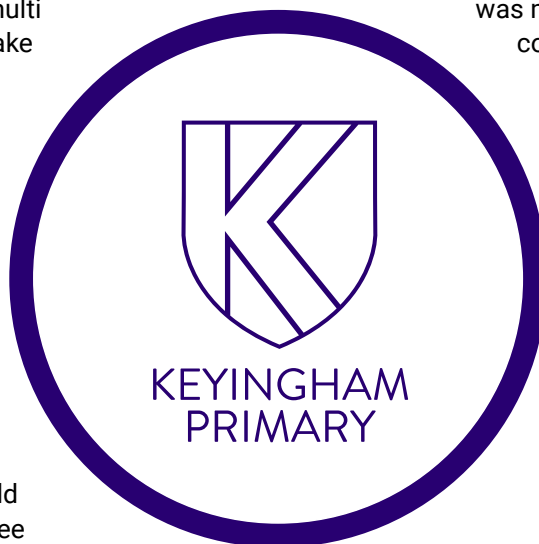
A meeting followed where we met Dave McCready, Sarah Young and Vic White. The positive attitude to developing the school, and how professional but friendly they were, really made me feel that this take over was going to be something good for the school and the staff, including me.

Back in January this year, me and a colleague got invited to the TCAT support staff conference. I was totally overwhelmed by the amount of staff, everyone was friendly and supportive towards each other. I hadn't realised just how big 'The Trust' was, we were part of a massive team.

My confidence is beginning to grow again; for the first time in my working life I feel like I am part of a team. I feel appreciated for the job I do, TCAT recognising the job I did

and giving me the opportunity to continue to support, protect and safeguard the children.

I know support is available if I ever need it as this was made clear to all the staff during the first coronavirus lockdown and beyond. I saw this support first-hand when, unfortunately, after only being at university for three weeks, my daughter tested positive for coronavirus. Vic (Keyingham's Head) immediately asked if I was ok and if there was anything she could do for my daughter i.e. send her parcels of food or medicines.



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safeguard the children.***



My journey so far...

I'm currently an apprentice teaching assistant for special educational needs at Winifred Holtby Academy.

I'm based within The Hub, working with a range of educational needs on a daily basis. I started my role here at the end of January 2020 and so far I have loved my time here. When I first started my role I was welcomed with open arms into a friendly classroom team, who have helped me develop my skills by mentoring me and working closely together to lead me in the right direction.

In my first few weeks of being a teaching assistant, I was mostly shadowing my colleagues, getting to know the students and just getting a feel for the new environment I was in. Since January, my skills and confidence have grown which has led to me having more responsibility within the classroom. I now take small groups for interventions and create resources to support my class as well as general learning support within lessons.

Alongside my work I am completing a level 3 qualification with Hull Business Training Centre. I have completed 14 taught sessions with a tutor, in these I was taught things such as; safeguarding, assessments, feedback, how to support special educational needs, lesson planning and a range of teaching skills and techniques. These college sessions were really useful and informative, I believe they have set me a fantastic base of knowledge which grows daily as I gain new experience. I've also completed a wide

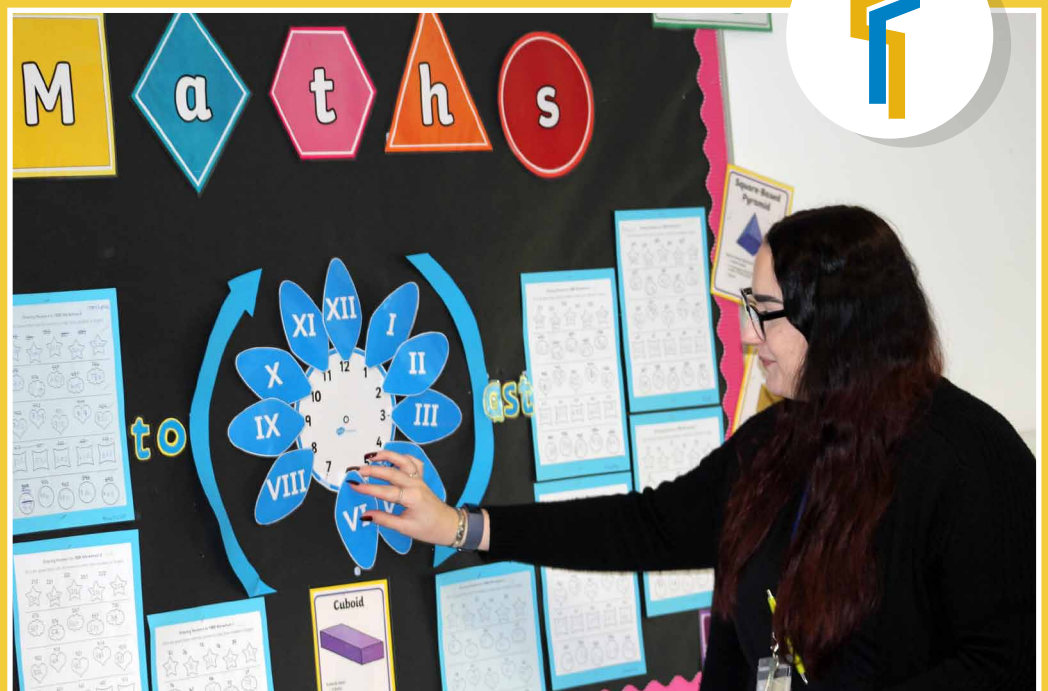
range of online training courses to contribute to my development covering areas such as; prevent, safeguarding, data protection and a range of training on specific needs (such as autism, dyslexia, epilepsy etc.). I also complete independent research tasks set by my college tutor which again contribute to my personal development and ensure I'm being the best I can be.

Along my journey I have received constant support from my line manager, she keeps track of my development, guides me in the right direction and delivers small training sessions 1 to 1. I feel comfortable going to her for help and guidance along my journey. I'm due to complete my qualification in October 2021, and I'm hoping to pass with a distinction. I'd recommend an apprenticeship to anyone who wants to kick-start their career in education.



Tamzin Frankish
Winifred Holtby Academy

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Alongside my work I am completing a level 3 qualification with Hull Business Training Centre.



Something to focus towards



Jennie Ellis

Mental Health Support Worker

Jennie.ellis@consortiumtrust.co.uk

As we go into the winter months, there is still the same amount of uncertainty that we started with in March but the difference now is we are seven months down the line and resources have become drained, exhausted and perhaps people are struggling to find the joy amidst the chaos.

With that in mind I wanted to share some ideas that can keep us grounded and tips to help give you something to focus towards.

Firstly, give yourselves permission to grieve for what you are missing out on: connecting with friends, trips, holidays, spontaneity, work being different.

Our default response tends to be other people have it worse – I shouldn't complain. Give yourself permission to feel sad and wallow a little, rather than brush it under the carpet. Feel that feeling, so that it doesn't keep building. It's ok to feel it's a bad situation. If we keep brushing it under the carpet, we will end up tripping over it!

Secondly, think about how you want to spend the remainder of the year, to allow a little control into your life alongside these scary and tricky times.

Really commit to making it worthwhile, lean in hard to that good stuff that makes us feel better.

So, what's your 'feel-good commitment'? Meeting up with friends? – online is ok! Start those workout routines, gardening, hobbies, sleeping, cooking those recipes that have been cluttering your kitchen side. Choosing a 'commitment' allows control back.

Thirdly, think about language: "It's going to be so hard", "Halloween is going to be awful", "Bonfire night will be rubbish." Look at your inflammatory language and ask yourself, is this fact or fiction? Is it helping me or not? Challenge it.



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**Focus on the
things you can
control.**

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Lastly, practising gratitude. It centres us in the moment, what do we have that we are really grateful for?

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Popular research studies recommend thinking of three things that we are grateful for – being as specific as possible. For example, having that cup of tea was great or having a few minutes spare to read a few chapters of my book was really calming.

☞
There is no amount of worry that changes the outcome of things we can't control. Focus on the things you can control.