

News@TCAT

January 2021

 @ConsortiumTrust



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

***Establish your
presence
immediately***

Be available

***Know your
platform***

Simplify

Feedback

***Have a
backup plan***

Be realistic

BetterTogether@TCAT





Dave McCready
CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of News@TCAT

Welcome to the first edition of our Trust newsletter for 2021.

I'd like to wish all colleagues the very best for the New Year, despite the current circumstances we find ourselves in. The start of 2021 has coincided with the introduction of tough national restrictions, including a return to partial opening for schools, as we wrestle as a country to control the spread of the coronavirus.

I think it is really important that we avoid the use of the phrase 'schools will be closed' because the reality is that, thanks to the huge effort from everyone, TCAT schools, like the vast majority of schools across the country, have remained open throughout the pandemic. On those few occasions when one of our academies has been unable to open, it has been a result of an issue with a

building or related problem, as experienced recently at Cottingham when the mains water supply burst, leaving no other choice but to close while repairs took place.

Throughout the last two terms, the combined efforts of everyone working at TCAT has ensured that we have been able to continue to provide educational provision for all learners, as well as being able to provide support to children, young people and families. Everyone at the Trust has played a part in this and your role is very much appreciated and has enabled the Trust to continue to function effectively.

There is no doubt that there are further challenges ahead over the coming months but as I reflect on the achievements across the Trust, I am confident that by continuing to work together and supporting each other, we will emerge as a stronger organisation.

As ever, this edition of the newsletter covers a variety of topics including one example from Croydon of a 'happy Christmas story' which confirms that despite everything, we continue to deliver a high-quality education experience for our learners.

In addition, Alex Morris-Jarvis provides some tips on Blended Learning and again the developments in this area across the Trust have been amazing. I would like to thank everyone involved in this Trust wide initiative. I know from feedback from learners and parents that it is very much appreciated and although we accept there is no replacement for face-to-face teaching, it is offering a good alternative during these challenging times.

The fact that we can offer this provision not only relies on staff input but also requires a robust ICT infrastructure and this is another area where, despite the pandemic, we have continued to invest for the benefit of all. Dave Brooke has provided a reminder regarding the availability of, and access to, Microsoft products for staff and learners.

As we are all aware, the next few months are going to be difficult for us all but by pulling together, supporting each other and working collaboratively we will make things slightly easier.

Stay safe,
Dave



***Everyone at the Trust has played a part in this
and your role is very much appreciated and has enabled
the Trust to continue to function effectively.***





Sarah Young
Director of Education

Lateral Flow Testing update



equally challenging and uncertain times, we have another tool to continue our community effort against the virus: regular Lateral Flow Testing. We are making access to this as easy for our staff as possible and have made arrangements with local providers as well as making the provision available in our secondary schools. The venues to access are as follows:

Telephone Booking ONLY –
01482 393975

Haltemprice Leisure Centre –
Open Now

Pocklington Leisure Centre –
Open Now

**other sites due to come on line soon are based in Bridlington, Goole and Driffield, we will notify you when we are told these are open for bookings.*

Each secondary school site will have their own Lateral Flow Testing site set up no later than Friday 15 January 2021. These sites can be accessed by all TCAT staff. If you are based in one of our primary schools, please speak to your Operations Manager who will support arrangements for you to attend your **closest** TCAT secondary school for testing.

The Lateral Flow Test is highly effective at detecting those who are asymptomatic. One of the greatest

anxieties we all face is unknowingly being a carrier of this virus and the implications of that in our personal life. The opportunity to engage in weekly testing will be able to provide us with a high degree of certainty.

The Lateral Flow Test is administered by you and tested within 30 minutes and the result communicated to you. The Consent Form to be used within TCAT will be issued to you week commencing Monday 11 January (in all other testing sites you will need to complete a Consent Form). For high levels of reassurance these should be conducted weekly.

We will shortly be rolling out testing for children of critical workers and vulnerable children in our secondary schools, as the science would suggest this action will have a positive impact on reducing transmission in this age group of the population, with a view to monitoring this and the DFE/Public Health direction once all learners return.

The availability of Lateral Flow Testing is not a passport to changing our behaviours – we should still stick rigorously to the Hands, Face, Space mantra.

We very much hope you will take up the offer of regular testing within your school or one of our partner organisations. Take care and thank you for your hard work and dedication.

As a Trust we know how hard our school-based teams have worked over the Autumn term to ensure that learning for our children and young people has continued and the effort that has been made by each person to follow the guidance around hygiene procedures and social distancing to ensure we keep each other safe.

This community spirit has not only helped us to keep our children and young people safe but their families, and indeed our own families, and we hope has had a positive impact on transmission rates within the local communities we serve.

As we now enter the Spring Term in

The opportunity to engage in weekly testing will be able to provide us with a high degree of certainty.



Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Guidance for Colleagues

Jane Simpson, Director of HR



Further guidance has been issued by the government for those people in England who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

If you are in this group, you will previously have received a letter from the NHS or from your GP telling you this, and you may have been advised to shield in the past.

This shielding guidance applies to clinically extremely vulnerable individuals only. Others living in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable are not advised to follow this guidance. They should instead follow the general advice and regulations set out in the national lockdown guidance that came into effect on 5 January 2021.

The clinically extremely vulnerable will get priority access to vaccination against COVID-19 before the general population and in line with the priority ordering set by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). You will be contacted again by the NHS with more information on when and how you will be invited to get the vaccine.

You are strongly advised to work from home because the risk of exposure to the virus in your area may currently be higher. Anyone who is in this group (CEV), will be provided with new guidance from the government, and this will need to be presented to the school for confirmation of your absence. Although the government is not advising that all pregnant women should refrain from physically attending the workplace, The Consortium Academy Trust has made

the decision that all pregnant women will be expected to work from home.

Where possible those teachers and learning support staff who are CEV or pregnant will be working from home delivering/supporting online lessons to your classes. If you are unable to undertake your specific job from home, an alternative role will be provided, health permitting.



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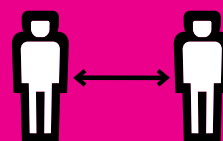
We must keep on protecting each other



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Teacher Conference

2020/21

Sarah Young, Director of Education

It was a difficult decision to cancel the Teacher Conference on Monday 4 January 2020 in many ways, though a straight forward and ethical decision in others.

While many of us had invested a degree of time in planning the event, not least with the changes to the structure, senior teaching and learning leaders in school had planned supporting sessions to continue the CPDL and many of us were looking forward to listening to the high-profile keynote speakers we had engaged with. However, with the impending announcement, we felt as Trust Leaders that, in line with our well-being commitment to you as a staff team, providing a day of PPA time to ensure you were prepared for a week to deliver high quality remote learning was essential. We hope you found it useful.

I am delighted that Tom Sherrington has found time (in between his active tweeting @teacherhead recently!) to record his sessions for us, which will be made available to support the summer term CPDL offer when we all have time to focus on the future rather than living in the moment (fingers crossed!). Our second BAMEEd Speaker, Abed Ahmed, I am delighted to say has agreed to join us for our next conference so more to come from him. So, save the date Friday 10 December 2021 for our Live @TCAT Teacher Conference Event.

I would just like to share with you that thanks to your efforts in developing your skills, reviewing learning and dedication to developing remote learning, our parents have responded with an 8% increase to 74% in the primary phase and a 14% increase to 70% in the secondary phase to the question 'how effective has the provision of remote learning been in lockdown 2 and bubble closure compared to lockdown 1?'. It is a fantastic response and early indications from last week are that this offer has improved still further along a research and evidence based blended approach so....thank you and well done!



David Brooke
Head of ICT

ICT Update



A reminder for colleagues that Office 365 ProPlus is now available with your academy email account.

As part of the Trust's enterprise agreement with Microsoft, staff and learners are able to download and install Microsoft Office ProPlus desktop applications **AT NO ADDITIONAL COST**. For further information on how to install, please see the recent news article on the TCAT website:

The Consortium Academy Trust - Install Microsoft Office ProPlus desktop applications (consortiumtrust.co.uk)

Blended Learning Top Tips



Alex Morris-Jarvis
Academy Improvement Leader

1. **Establish your presence immediately** – your classroom, your rules, your expectations
2. **Be available** – check well-being, build relationships & be the teacher you would've needed during a pandemic when you were a child
3. **Simplify** – simplify what you're teaching & how you're teaching it.
Prioritising skills and core concepts from your curriculum area is more necessary now than ever
4. **Feedback** – consistently perform simple checks for core understanding. Intervene appropriately and reflect
5. **Have a backup plan** – test everything, plan ahead, and assume everything will break
6. **Know your platform** – utilise the IT, get confident & comfortable with the bare necessities first, then continue to build your own skill set
7. **Be realistic** – we aren't expecting an all singing all dancing remote lesson...this is new territory. Talk to colleagues, share best practice, take it one step at a time and give yourself a break

Remember:

this is your online classroom environment, learning input and behaviour management is the same as in the physical world.

Croxby children spread Christmas cheer to the elderly in Cottingham



Magnolia House, a residential care home for the elderly in Cottingham, received handmade Christmas cards from the children at Croxby Primary.

They created the season's greetings and delivered them to the care home wearing COVID-safe PPE, including a mask and gloves. The cards were isolated in the home for 72 hours before being given to the residents. Everyone at Croxby wanted to celebrate the festivities with the residents at Magnolia House, keeping the annual tradition going.

Sarah Carter, activities coordinator at Magnolia House, said: "Our

residents love celebrating the festivities with the children and it is very thoughtful of the students to have created the cards. Thank you to everyone at Croxby, the cards will look great around the home."

Audrey, resident at Magnolia House, said: "I love Christmas, and the cards from the children at Croxby were very thoughtful and caring. Thank you to the teachers for helping the children and organising their delivery to us."

Kerry Mason, Assistant Headteacher, said: "Being part of the wider community is important for us at Croxby. The children were overjoyed that they were able to make a difference by creating cards and writing letters for the residents at Magnolia House."



Going into January with intentions



Did you all see the new intentions tips last week on the TCAT twitter feed?

Maybe you had been thinking about creating some healthier habits or considered incorporating some nourishing activities to replenish your wellbeing?

When we consider creating healthier habits or behaviours we all know why we want to do it or why it will be good for us. For example, we all know why exercise is good for us.

Despite this, we can sometimes stumble and then stop, when starting a new intention, because it doesn't depend on those reasons, benefits or strength of will power.

When we start, our effort and motivation is high and this alone takes a lot of effort to sustain. The harder it is to do something, to start a new habit, the more effort and motivation it takes to do that new thing.

Whether we like it or not motivation comes and goes. So, what happens on those days when our motivation or effort has got up and left? We go into auto pilot and turn to doing the easiest thing.

For example, I'll skip the jog tonight because I don't feel like it, despite knowing the importance of exercise or the health benefits it brings. The next day, there's no point going tonight because I didn't do last night's jog – easiest option!

When starting a new habit, behaviour, abandon trying to be so

good at it, abandon the notion of doing it when you feel like it. On the days that you don't feel like doing it, even the most miniscule effort towards it is better than doing nothing – for example, walk the route instead of jog. Better than nothing won't be your ultimate goal but for those days, when your motivation has got up and walked away, plan for a better than nothing.

New behaviours take a lot of effort, to establish new routines takes a lot of effort.

So, ask yourself, what is that nourishing activity that you want to do but haven't got around to doing? Take one step, initiating behaviour is usually the hardest part and once we have begun and repeated that habit we have begun the process.

Finally, look out for weekly wellbeing tips on the TCAT twitter feed!

Jennie Ellis

Mental Health Support Worker

Jennie.ellis@consortiumtrust.co.uk

“

Act as if you are your own best friend and be

**kind and
supportive**

when you feel you have stumbled.

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