

3rd April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Consortium Trust to open two new special school sites in Suffolk.

The Government has committed to expanding special school provision significantly across England, as announced by the Secretary of State for Education yesterday. Suffolk County Council also approved its SEND capital programme, with a £12million investment in six new school sites in 2025/2026. Further detail can be found in the article below.

https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/ipswich/news/hundreds-of-special-needs-school-places-to-be-created-as-aut-9411119/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR0ynKbEdJ5PsWEjvQP3qIv5KjgSUML-XqfTsxMDmYpb2s0o96f9Wh654rg_aem_Cs95nBeXYtZD-qBm5AZ4Jg#

I have been working with colleagues at Suffolk County Council for the past few months, following the Trust's move into special education and our collective success and school improvement at both Warren School (Lowestoft) and Riverwalk School (Bury St Edmunds).

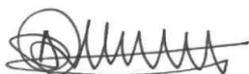
I am therefore delighted to advise you that Consortium Trust have been asked to open two more special school sites, offering initially up to 80 additional school places to children with special educational needs. The new sites will operate as satellite provisions to our existing special schools and are due to open to pupils in September 2026. There is still a lot of work to be undertaken including, applying for and obtaining the necessary permissions from the Department for Education, acquiring the new sites, refurbishing the schools and recruiting staff.

I can confirm that:

- Riverwalk School will be expanded to operate on a second site within Bury St Edmund's.
- Warren School will be expanded to operate a second site in Beccles.

I am sure that you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity for our staff and our wider school communities. I will provide you with more information as things becoming clearer over the next few months.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne
CEO