

Letter to the Prime Minister

Saving Outdoor Education

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Thursday 11 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Children and young people have been among those most impacted by the COVID pandemic. All have missed vital school hours and valuable time with friends, while being confined to their houses with limited access to the outdoors and the life enhancing experiences it can bring.

With over two million children a year taking part in outdoor education, the benefits to health and wellbeing and to socio-emotional learning outcomes (including self-confidence, teamwork and resilience) have been well-evidenced. This is particularly true for disadvantaged children and the thousands of inner-city schools for whom outdoor education is often a unique experience.

As we recover from this pandemic, we need to help children across the UK regain these valuable learning experiences and outdoor education has a unique role to play in helping to restore and rebuild their confidence and mental health.

However, the pandemic has been catastrophic for outdoor education and, unless urgent action is taken, the sector will be decimated, with £600m of sector revenue already lost, resulting in 6,000 jobs gone and a further 10,000 jobs at risk.

We can still save this valuable sector, activate its huge resources to play a role in schoolchildren's recovery from the pandemic, and protect its vital educational experiences for future generations. To do that, outdoor education has to be part of the Government's wider reopening of education, with both day and overnight visits allowed to operate, while following the sector's COVID Safe Charter, in the Summer Term.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Benedict Allen, FRGS	Explorer, Author, Film Maker
Dr. Mya-Rose Craig Duncan Falconer	Founder & President Black2Nature Author
Jon Holt	International Sailor of the Decade
Alastair Humphreys	Adventurer, Author
Victoria Humphries	Polar Explorer
David Lindo	Naturalist (David The Urban Birder), writer, broadcaster, speaker, photographer
Lady Catherine Fairweather McCullin	Travel editor & freelance journalist
Sir Donald McCullin CBE	Photojournalist
Sir Michael Morpurgo OBE and Lady Morpurgo, MBE	Founders and Trustees, Farms for City Children
Mary Ann Ochota Ed Stafford	Broadcaster, Anthropologist, Author TV Survivalist
Etienne Stott MBE	Olympic Champion, Whitewater Slalom
Sir Clive Woodward, OBE	Former England Rugby Union Team Coach



Full List of Signatories

Name	Position	Company
Debbie Clinton	CEO	Academy Transformation Trust
Sam Mitchell	Director	Acclimatize
Joshua Thompson	Head of Centre Pioneer Centre	Action Centres UK Ltd
Robert Crates	Director	Activate Outdoors
Tom Watson	Manager	Activate Outdoors
Gethin Richards	Operations Manager	Active Outdoor Pursuits
James Miller	Activities Manager	Active Outdoor Pursuits
Denea Wright	MD	Allnatt Centres
David Germain	Executive Director	Anderton Centre
Gareth Davies	Centre Manager	Arete Outdoor Centre
Jim Whittaker	Chair	Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres
James Stevens	Chairman	ASTO
Patrick Russell	Trustee	ASTO
Benjamin Wire	Chair, Director and Ops Director	BAPA, Château Beaumont
Nell Barrington	MD	Barrington Associates
Simon Fishwick	Director	Barton Turf Adventure Centre
Graham Milton	Director / Founder	BeVenturesome
Tony Baker	Center Manager	BF Adventure and Via Ferrata Cornwall CIC
Gof Daine	Manager	Black Rock Outdoors Ltd
Dave Squire	CEO	Blackwell Adventure
Helen Price	Senior team	Blackwell Adventure
Ned Lloyd	Senior team	Blackwell Adventure
Philip Britton	Headmaster	Bolton School Boy's Division
Steven Bradley	Head of Outdoor Learning	Bolton School Boys' Division
Emma Lindle,	Head of Outdoor Learning	Bolton School Girls' Division
Sue Hincks	Headmistress	Bolton School Girls' Division
Alistair Will	N/A	Braywick Nature Centre
Jacquiie Marcus	Director	Bright Expedition
Arabella Connell	N/A	British Exploring Society
Carlotta Newbury	Supporter	British Exploring Society
David Bartles-Smith	Trustee	British Exploring Society
David Tilston	Trustee and Treasurer	British Exploring Society
Honor Wilson-Fletcher	CEO	British Exploring Society
Hugh Crossley	Board	British Exploring Society
Ian Maginnis	Chair	British Exploring Society
Anthea Cooper	Teaching and Learning Manager	Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre
Barbara Raybould	Centre Manager	Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre
Jof Gaughan	Executive Director	Camp Beaumont
Elaine Clarke	Centre Manager	Cardfields Centre
Mark Downey	Centre Director / CEO	CMC Adventure
Deb Cook	Head of Centre	Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Centre
Chris Cassells	Head of Centre	Cranedale Centre
Graham Still-Blundell	Principal	Crosby Hall Educational Trust
Sam Thompson	Managing Director	Cumulus Outdoors (Residential Centre)
Dougie Bruce	Centre Manager	Delaware OEC
Paul Mitchell	Director	Dynamic Adventures South West CIC
Joanna Goldsmid	Director	Earthwhisper Outdoor Learning
Susan Newton	Centre Manager	Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre
Natasha Branston	Founder	Educating Kids Outdoors

Frank Fletcher	CEO	Ellen Macarthur Cancer Trust
Glen Probert	Lead Outdoor Education Manager	Entrust Outdoors
Jim Evans	Marketing Director	Equip Outdoor Technologies
Mathew Gowar	CEO	Equip Outdoor Technologies
Matthew Parting	Head Teacher	Evendons Primary School
Aled Davies	N/A	Expeditions Wales
Sir Michael and Lady Morpurgo	Founders and Trustees	Farms for City Children
Helen Robertson	Centre Manager	Field Studies Council.
Patrick Pritchett	Head	Floreat Montague Park Primary School
Anne Deane	N/A	Forest Dean Forest Schools
Matthew Ellis	Director	FRGS Centre
Shirley Robinson-Viney	Chair	Go Youth Activities
Martin Smith	Senior Advisor	Greenwood Academies Trust
Wayne Norrie	CEO	Greenwood Academies Trust
Jon Holt	International Sailor of the Decade	Greig City Academy
Kurt Mockridge	Centre Manager	Grenville House Outdoor Education Centre
Angela Wellman	Headteacher	Grove Park School
George Plant	Head of Centre	Head of Centre
Chris McConnell	Director	Hooke Court
Dylan Cooper	Director	Hooke Court
Sarah McConnell	Director	Hooke Court
Ray Dawe	Leader	Horsham District Council
Alex Williamson	CEO	Inspiring Learning Group
Andy Robinson	CEO	Institute for outdoor Learning
Fiona Exon	N/A	Institute for Outdoor Learning
Mark Moore	Chief Executive Officer	ITC First
Steve Wilkins	Managing Director	Karos Adventure Ltd
Eoghan Powell	General Manager	Kingswood Colomendy
Brian Kitson	General Manager	Kingswood Dearne Valley
Paul Hewitt	General Manager	Kingswood Dukeshouse Wood
Simon Pritchard	General Manager	Kingswood Grosvenor Hall
Lee Grey	General Manager	Kingswood Isle Of Wight
Henry Teuma	General Manager	Kingswood Staffordshire
Paul Hewitt	General Manager	Kingswood, Dukeshouse Wood
Carol Bone	General Manager	Kingwood Overstrand and West Runton
Misty Cudahy	Director	Kinship in Nature
Oliver Rakocevic	Lead facilitator	Kinship in Nature
Rhiannon Leyland	Director & lead facilitator	Kinship in Nature
Rosalyn Bilbrough	Lead facilitator	Kinship in Nature
David Mutton	N/A	Land & Wave
Justin Baker	Senior Sport, Leisure & Projects Manager	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority
Stuart Fraser	Centre Manager	Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre
Mark Williams	Head of Centres	Lindley Educational Trust
Graham Burns	Head of Centre	Lledr Hall Outdoor Education Centre
Lisa May	CEO	Lodge Hill Centre
Richard Whittaker	Trustee	Lodge Hill Centre
Matthew Wykes	Principal Partner	Lodge Hill centre, West Sussex
Penny Barnes	Trustee	Lodge Hill Centre, West Sussex
Robert Allison	Former Trustee	Lodge Hill, West Sussex
Martin Curtis	Director of Residential Centres	London Youth (Hindleap Warren and Woodrow High House)
Mike Fawcett	Director	Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust
John Jenner	Head of Adventure	Magdalen Court School

Jeff Seneviratne	Co-Chairs	Manchester Outdoor Education Trust
Owen Cooper	Co-Chairs	Manchester Outdoor Education Trust
Philip Dale	Head of Centre	Marle Hall Centre for Outdoor Learning
James Swallow	Founder	Maybe Sailing Limited Swallow – Skydive Hibaldstow
Steve Swallow	Manager	Maybe Sailing Limited and Maybe Sailing Youth Initiative
Phil Turner	Head of Centres	Mendip Activity Centre
Matt Rawlingson Plant	MD	Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre
Tricia Rawlingson Plant	Founding Director	Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre
Jonathon Owen	Director	Morfa Bay Adventure
Alastair Humphreys	Adventurer, Author	N/A
Clive Woodward	Former England Rugby Team Coach	N/A
David Lindo	Naturalist - David The Urban Birder - writer, broadcaster, speaker	N/A
Ed Stafford	TV Survivalist	N/A
Etienne Stott MBE	Olympic Champion, Canoe	N/A
Lady Catherine Fairweather McCullin	Travel editor & freelance journalist	N/A
Sir Donald McCullin CBE	Photojournalist	N/A
Jim Langley	N/A	Nature's Work
Anna Thompson	Education and Activities Manager	Nene Park
Nathan Moore	Course Manager	Outdoor Adventure, Shuttleworth College
Terry Hailwood	Head of Centre, Low Mill	Outdoor Education Centre CIO
Graham Lodge	Adviser	Outdoor Learning, Norfolk County Council
Colonel MJF Kingscote LVO	MD	Outdoor Posts
Chris Pierce	Deputy Service Manager	Oxfordshire Outdoors
Ed Abley	Centre Manager	Oxfordshire Outdoors
Mike Smith	General Manager	Parkwood Outdoors Dolygaer
Tim Taylor	Centre Manager	Patterdale Hall Adventure Learning Centre
James Andrews	Centre Manager	Peak Activity Services
Matt Collins	Operations Manager	Peak Activity Services
Mike Gibbons	Centre Manager	Peak Activity Services
Mike Wild	Centre Manager	Peak Activity Services
Paul Ball	Managing Director	Peak Activity Services
Rich Lea	Centre Manager	Peak Activity Services
Jeff Handley	Head of Plas Gwynant	Plas Gwynant Outdoor Education Centre
Clive Richley	Managing Director	Pro-Active Adventure Ltd
Norman Beech	Manager	Raymond Priestley Centre, University of Birmingham
Sarah Fox	N/A	Reardon Smith Nautical Trust
Peter Jones	Director	Red Ridge Centre
Mike King	CEO	Releasing Potential Coastal Centre
Ed Jones	Centre Director	Rhos Y Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre Ltd
Jill Baker	N/A	RHS Garden Hyde Hall
Rebecca Ridgway	Director	Ridgway Adventure Ltd,
Martin Vasey	Managing Director	Robinwood Activity Centres

Merlyn Farmer	Centre Manager	Robinwood Barhaugh Hall Activity Centre
Stu Brady	Centre Manager	Robinwood Dobroyd Castle Activity Centre
Ashleigh Seymour	Centre Manager	Robinwood Maes y Nant Activity Centre
Pip Woods	Managing Director	Rockley Watersports Ltd
Adrian de Souza	Deputy Head	Sackville School
Julian Grant,	Headteacher	Sackville School
James Hull	Duke of Edinburgh & Educational Visits Co-ordinator	Sherborne School
Sean Rider	Centre Manager	Simply Outdoors
Glyn Brackenbury	Centre Manager	Skern Lodge
Richard Thomas	Centre Manager	Skern Lodge
Hannah Swallow	Founder	Skydive Spain
Anna Groskop	County Councillor	Somerset
Lucy Trimmell	Councillor	South Somerset District Council
Steve Rayner	Coordinator	South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group
Alistair Handyside MBE	Chair	South West Tourism Alliance
Mark Reeves	Director	Spirit of Adventure
Ian Martin	Head of Outdoor Education	St David's College
Peter Dove	Head	St. Gabriels
Catrin Battista	Associate Head Teacher	St. Peter's Primary School
Adam Geens	Head of Centre	Stanley Head OEC
Adrian Ferraro	N/A	STC Expeditions
Andy White	Operations Manager	Stubbers Adventure Centre
Catherine Anwar	CEO	Summit Learning Trust
Kerry Rolison	Head of Suntrap	Suntrap Forest Centre
Louise Edwards	Manager	Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development
Richard Leaman, CB, OBE	CEO	Tall Ships Youth Trust
Alistair Cole	Director	The Adur Centre
Chris Sainsbury	Director	The Bioasis
Henry Middleton	Trustee	The Boleh Trust
Ruth Cracknell	Director	The Bridge Centre
Joe Holden	Centre Manager	The Christian Adventure Centre
Nick Mccavish	Head of Centres, Edsential	The Conway Centres
Jamie Campbell	Chairman	The Excelsior Trust
Richard Lloyd	N/A	The Island Trust
Robert Squirrel	Community Education Manager	The Sayers Croft Trust
Benedict Allen	Explorer, Author, Film Maker & Patron	Tony Trust
Dr. Mya-Rose Craig	Founder & President Black2Nature & Patron	Tony Trust
Duncan Falconer	Author & Patron	Tony Trust
Garth Wilkinson	MD Manufacturing Co & Trustee	Tony Trust
Greg Englefield	International Lawyer & Trustee	Tony Trust
Mary Ann Ochota	Broadcaster, Anthropologist, Author & Patron	Tony Trust
Michele Damer	Trustee	Tony Trust
Reverend Dan Richards	Retired Rector & Patron	Tony Trust
Tamara Stubbs	Wildlife Recordist & Trustee	Tony Trust
Victoria Humphries	Polar Explorer & Patron	Tony Trust
Robin Barker	Director	Tourism Management Institute
Nick Winder	Head	Tyr Abad residential Education Centre
Ben Willows	CEO	UKSA
Alexia Barrable	Academic	University of Dundee

Giles Adam	Chair	Visit Somerset
Karen Watson	Education Officer	We are Barleylands
Richard Hathway	Outdoor Mentor & Head of Outdoor learning	West Buckland School, Devon
Clare Griffin MBE	Centre Manager	West Wight Sport & Community Centre
Mike Roper	Head of Centres	Whitlingham Adventure
Catherine Scholes	Camp Director	Wickedly Wonderful
Dave Watson	Founder	Woodland Survival Crafts
James Blake	CEO	YHA
Mike Cross	Chairman	Young Explorers Trust
David Goss	Director	Zest for Adventure Limited