

Letter to the Prime Minister

Saving Outdoor Education

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

Wednesday 10 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	Founder & President Black2Nature
Duncan Falconer	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	Broadcaster, Anthropologist, Author
Ed Stafford	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
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Robert Crates	Director	Activate Outdoors
Tom Watson	Manager	Activate Outdoors
Gethin Richards	Operations Manager	Active Outdoor Pursuits
James Miller	Activities Manager	Active Outdoor Pursuits
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David Germain	Executive Director	Anderton Centre
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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
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Graham Milton	Director / Founder	BeVenturesome
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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
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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
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Jof Gaughan	Executive Director	Camp Beaumont
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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
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Shirley Robinson-Viney	Chair	Go Youth Activities
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Wayne Norrie	CEO	Greenwood Academies Trust
Jon Holt	International Sailor of the Decade	Greig City Academy
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Dylan Cooper	Director	Hooke Court
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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
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Lisa May	CEO	Lodge Hill Centre
Richard Whittaker	Trustee	Lodge Hill Centre
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Penny Barnes	Trustee	Lodge Hill Centre, West Sussex
Robert Allison	Former Trustee	Lodge Hill, West Sussex

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Owen Cooper	Co-Chairs	Manchester Outdoor Education Trust
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Clive Woodward	Former England Rugby Team Coach	N/A
David Lindo	Naturalist - David The Urban Birder - writer, broadcaster, speaker	N/A
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Etienne Stott MBE	Olympic Champion, Canoe	N/A
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Sir Donald McCullin CBE	Photojournalist	N/A
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Mike Wild	Centre Manager	Peak Activity Services
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Ashleigh Seymour	Centre Manager	Robinwood Maes y Nant Activity Centre
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Lucy Trimnell	Councillor	South Somerset District Council
Steve Rayner	Coordinator	South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group
Alistair Handyside MBE	Chair	South West Tourism Alliance
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Tamara Stubbs	Wildlife Recordist & Trustee	Tony Trust
Victoria Humphries	Polar Explorer & Patron	Tony Trust
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Nick Winder	Head	Tyr Abad residential Education Centre
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Catherine Scholes	Camp Director	Wickedly Wonderful
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