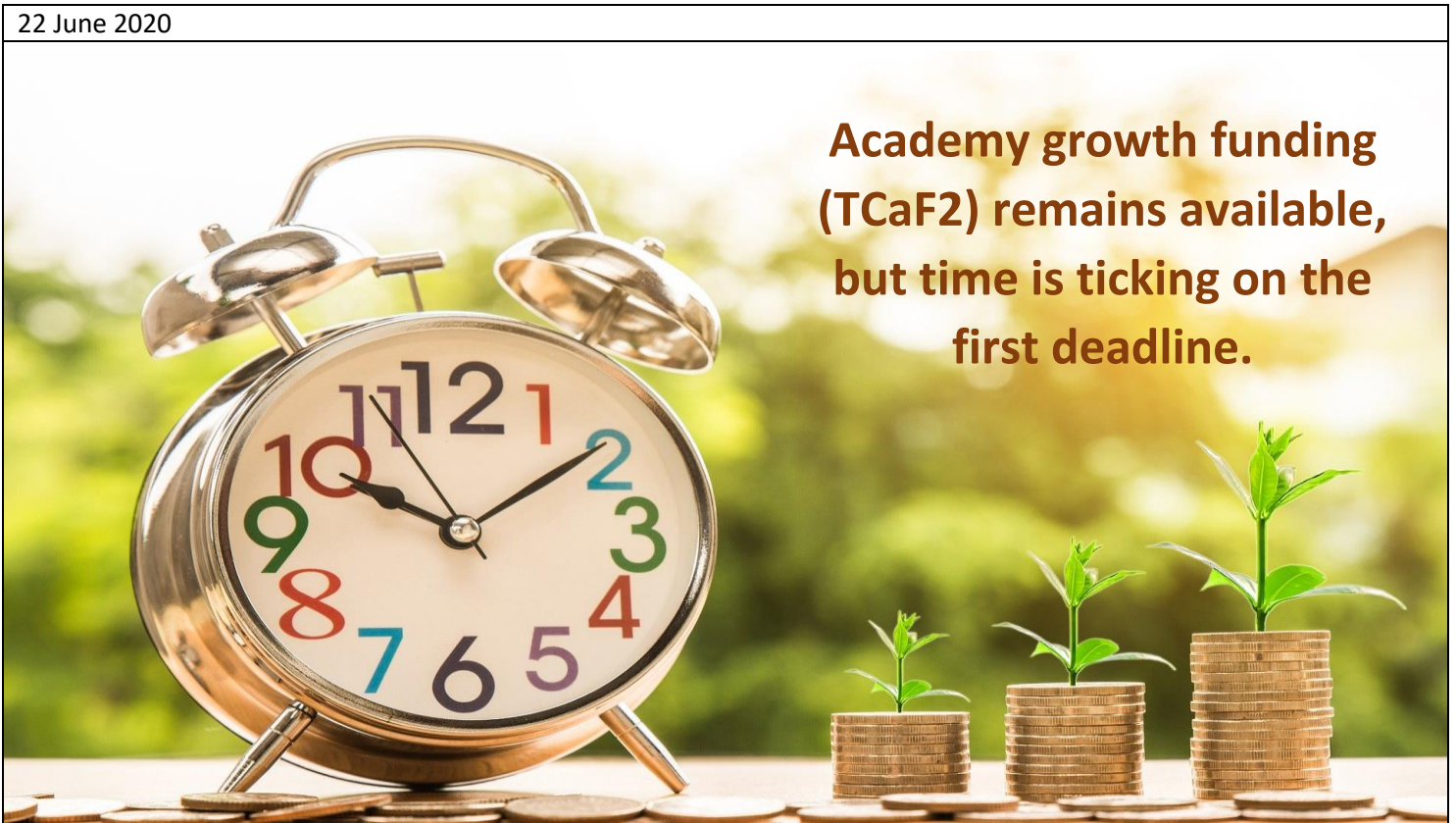


22 June 2020



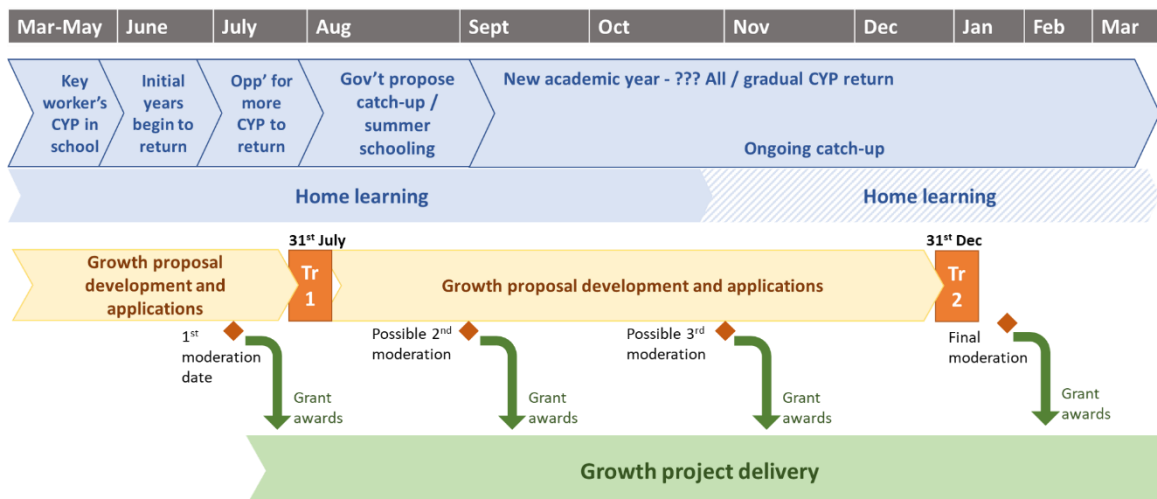
Academy growth funding (TCaF2) remains available, but time is ticking on the first deadline.

How can schools and academy trusts balance operational and strategic needs in times of crisis and recovery?

Whilst the Government has shifted a great number of deadlines – such as tax payments and reporting deadlines, there has been no adjustment or extension given to the [Trust Capacity Fund](#) (TCaF2) for schools and academies who may wish to explore growth and development of their existing academy trusts or forming new trusts in rural areas.

The TCaF2 grant remains available in two tranches this year – tranche 1 application closing date is 31st July 2020, - and we understand the first round of applications moderation is happening later this month. With tranche 2 applications closing 31st December 2020. We expect 2 or 3 further moderation rounds up to Jan 2021 and all TCaF2 funded activities must be completed by 31st March 2021.

With the challenges schools and academy leaders are facing from trying to operate education provision during this covid-19 pandemic and recovery period, these timelines make for some significant juggling and balancing of time and resources if school leaders are to be able to tackle both the immediate operational changes required alongside the strategic planning that ideally needs to continue.



Many schools and trusts are likely to have paused or slowed any growth or new trust development plans in order to focus on the current covid-19 recovery requirements. Whilst this is understandable, there is a risk to only focusing operationally in a time of crisis and recovery as this may store up and possibly exacerbate any previous and current issues for schools for a longer period; or it may mean that schools and academy trusts miss out on valuable opportunities and ultimately place a greater risk on their growth strategies.

Whilst the larger academy trusts will no doubt have greater capacity to juggle the competing demands of crisis management and forward planning, there is a danger that smaller trusts will miss out on the funding available to support their growth and merger opportunities. And with an ever tightening scrutiny on the applications, this just becomes harder each round.

Having supported many schools and academy trusts to develop and implement their growth and merger strategies and access the available support grants we are well placed to support you at this time. If you or your school or academy trust would like to tap into some additional expert capacity to help shape your TCAF2 application please do not hesitate to contact us at [Lock House Consulting](#) 'opening possibilities in education'.

