



**To: All Headteachers**

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Ask For: Mr Matt Dunkley  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Colleague

### **Schools PPE and NHS hubs**

It seems strange that I am writing to you during the Easter holidays but as I said yesterday, this Easter Break is unlike any we have experienced previously, as schools remain open for those that need them. I cannot express strongly enough, how grateful I am to you and your colleagues for providing such a valuable service to our most vulnerable learners and children of critical workers.

Even though in so many ways, you and your colleagues have already gone above and beyond what is usually expected of you, I actually have a further request for your support. Within the Local Authority, Emergency Planners and Infrastructure colleagues have been working hard to identify items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that could be stockpiled and used to provide mutual aid to frontline services that may be in desperate need of it. Types of PPE include protective glasses or goggles, disposable aprons, gloves or sanitising products. I am, therefore, asking if your school holds any of these items and if you would be willing to donate them to KCC to distribute to frontline services such as the NHS and Adult or Children's Social Care.

I am aware that a number of colleges have already donated items and I am also aware of some amazing work by a number of schools in South and East Kent who have worked directly with colleagues in NHS to provide equipment. On this evidence I feel that if all mainstream schools across the county were to pool their resources, the benefit to those frontline services would be considerable. Therefore, if you feel you do have any equipment that could be donated, please contact Louise Butfoy on [Louise.Butfoy@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Butfoy@kent.gov.uk) or 01622 675570 and arrangements for the collection/delivery of those items can be appropriately co-ordinated.

I know this is yet another request to schools in what are difficult, challenging times but by working together in this way, we can only strengthen the fight to overcome the crisis we are currently all in.

On a related issue, it has come to light that schools are being approached by either District Councils or the NHS, with requests to utilise school sites for field hospitals

or NHS logistics hubs. Even though in some instances schools have looked to support these requests, they are not under any obligation to agree and KCC would take the view that schools are not the most appropriate sites to manage such operations from.

KCC Infrastructure are currently working with Senior colleagues in the NHS to identify alternative sites, but in the meantime, should you receive any requests, please contact your Area Education Officer.

Finally, the Area Education Officers have received a number of calls from schools who have not yet received an activation email from Edenred for the Free School Meal Voucher Scheme. We have contacted the DfE and they have advised that activation emails are still being sent and the department expect the last batch of activation emails to be sent by 17:00 today (2<sup>nd</sup> April).

If you have not received an email, we advise you check your 'junk' folder first. If you still cannot find the email, please contact [freeschoolmeals@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmeals@edenred.com) where you will be directed to complete a web form. This email address is only being provided to school staff only and should not be shared more widely.

When you receive an activation email, I urge you to read the user guidance included. This provides a step-by-step guide to ordering vouchers - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

As always, I thank you for all your efforts to date and for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Matt Dunkley**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Children, Young People and Education**