



To all Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education Directorate

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Dear Colleague,

Last week secondary schools welcomed back Year 10 and 12 pupils for some face to face contact. I thought it would be helpful to share with you the reassuring and consistent rate of growth in the numbers of pupils attending schools across the County. I am aware that many secondary school colleagues have plans to open more fully this week.

| | | 03 June 2020 | 10 June 2020 | 17 June 2020 |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number of pupils attending | <i>Critical Worker</i> | 4653 | 5082 | 6000 |
| | <i>Vulnerable</i> | 1278 | 1534 | 1677 |
| | <i>Nursery</i> | 181 | 288 | 414 |
| | <i>Reception</i> | 2991 | 4654 | 5615 |
| | <i>Year 1</i> | 2415 | 3518 | 4376 |
| | <i>Year 6</i> | 3931 | 5613 | 6257 |
| | <i>Year 10</i> | 0 | 0 | 1334 |
| | <i>Year 12</i> | 0 | 0 | 422 |
| Number of school returns | <i>Total</i> | 476 | 462 | 445 |
| | <i>Primary/All Through</i> | 384 | 371 | 355 |
| | <i>Secondary</i> | 69 | 68 | 67 |
| | <i>Special</i> | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| | <i>PRU</i> | 2 | 3 | 3 |

LA returns only

I would like to thank you for continuing to send in your data returns as this gives us vital information to support our planning. Moving forward this data will be shared weekly through the KAH task groups.

Many of our Primary schools are also welcoming back other year groups to fill to their available capacity and I am hearing how a number of schools are now struggling to meet the growing demand from parents whilst operating within the

current social distancing guidelines. The news that in Northern Ireland social distancing of 1m (just over 3ft) as opposed to 2m (6ft) is "safe and appropriate" for children and young people at school is perhaps an indication of how England's guidance may change in the future.

The Government announced its 'Billion pound Covid catch-up plan to tackle impact of lost teaching time' as well as reinforcing their aim to get all pupils back in school from September:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time?utm_source=f5cb6d8f-1bae-4cb0-a91f-28a6ab03ca58&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

The outline includes a commitment to £350 million for a National Tuition Programme for the most disadvantaged pupils and £650 million to be shared across primary and secondary schools to help pupils from all backgrounds who have lost teaching time. The expectation is that head teachers will decide how the money is spent. As yet, no details have been published about this fund, however I know that this news will be welcomed.

We are currently updating our guidance, both in light of recent announcements and considering options which will enable schools to open for more pupils. I will update you on this as soon as more details become available.

KCC is committed to supporting you financially in response to gaps in learning particularly for disadvantaged children through our partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). You will be aware that both KCC and the EEF have contributed to a £600,000 pot of funding which is available to all schools to take up evidence-based work. Like so many other things, this project has had to change due to COVID-19. The [EEFective Kent Project](#), was paused at the start of the pandemic to allow the team to reshape the project for our 'new normal'. I am delighted that we are now able to recommence this work.

The second application window is now open and will remain so until Monday, 26th October. This elongated application window has been created to give maximum flexibility and support to you during the recovery period. All the details about the offer and the funding are on the [EEFective Kent Project webpage](#). This includes an updated [prospectus](#), a new '[Virtual Roadshow](#)' with clips and further information, and the live [application form](#). To ensure that you get a timely response, additional funding review points where applications will be assessed have been added. The application review timetable is on the project webpage. If you have any questions or would like to join the mailing list for updates, please email EEFectiveKentProject@kent.gov.uk. EEF are national leaders of evidence-based practice, working in partnership with them is a valuable opportunity and I encourage you to take full advantage of it.

We also move forward on our agenda for SEND inclusion. In these times, it is more important than ever to provide appropriate education for SEN pupils and I would like to highlight an opportunity available to all schools.

The Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER) and Valley Invicta Academies Trust are working with us to develop a supportive network of professionals across the County. With the requirement for SRP's to have a lead teacher who has a postgraduate qualification in the need type of the provision, we have teamed up to be able to provide a Kent localised cohort of the Postgraduate Certificate (Autism Children) at University of Birmingham with the Autism Centre for Education and Research (ACER). The course covers modules in; Special educational needs of autistic children; Curriculum and Approaches for pupils with autism and Special Studies in Special Education. This opportunity is open to all schools, not just those with an SRP. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/acer/index.aspx>

or by contacting either Dr Alison Ekins a.ekins@valleypark.viat.org.uk or Professor Karen Goldberg k.k.guldborg@bham.ac.uk

Our message to all headteachers is you have been, and continue to, manage this situation with the safety of staff and pupils as the principal consideration and I thank you for this. We are here to support you and will continue to endeavour to keep you updated in a timely fashion as more information becomes available.

Yours sincerely



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