



To All Headteachers

**Children, Young People and Education**

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Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back to a new term, which brings further promise of our gradual return to usual operations. The term seems to have got off to a smooth start which is very positive.

**School visits.**

Yesterday I was privileged to visit a number of schools, Folkstone Secondary Academy and Morehall Primary Academy, both of the Turner Trust, the newly opened Walmer site of The Beacon special school, and the current Whitfield Aspen Primary school which has a Specialist Resource Base for PMLD pupils and their new site. I visited with Area Education Officers Celia Buxton and Lee Round. I was delighted to finally meet some education staff!

It was just fantastic to see so many children and young people of all ages enthusiastically engaged in learning in a range of settings, especially children on their second day exploring the new Beacon School satellite. It was also good to see vulnerable year 10 and 11 pupils fully occupied and working hard in the Personal Learning Centre at Folkstone Academy.

I was interested to find about the way that SEND inclusion is working in the mainstream schools, both generally and also the way that Specialist Resource Bases operate. Whitfield Aspen have a fully integrated SRB for children with profound and multiple impairment and Jason Cook, headteacher, described the benefits to pupils and to staff, including improved staff retention.

A huge thank you to Seamus Murphy, Am'e Moris, Neil Birch, Ady Young, Jason Cook and their teams for the warm welcome and their time.

**KCC School Term Dates 2022-23 Consultation**

KCC is responsible for setting term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022-23. In determining the proposed future school term dates, KCC is required to consult on the proposed dates and this consultation began on Thursday 15 April 2021, lasting for 6 weeks and will conclude on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

The proposed dates and consultation response form can be found here:

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/Termdatesconsultation/consultationHome>

If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact

[louise.dench@kent.gov.uk](mailto:louise.dench@kent.gov.uk)

### **COVID-19 free school meals additional costs online form for schools and colleges**

The COVID-19 free school meals additional costs online form for schools and colleges is now live: <http://form.education.gov.uk/service/fsm-claim>

You can claim eligible costs related to free school meals and free meal additional costs during the period 4 January up to the start of the Easter holidays (as applicable). The deadline to submit your claim is 23:59 on 4 May 2021.

Further guidance is available on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-free-school-meals-additional-costs>

### **Promising Project Funding Opportunity**

[The EEFective Kent Project](#) has opened the third and **final round** of Promising Project funding applications. To apply for 50% match-funding towards a selection of the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) Promising Projects, schools need to complete the application form on the [EEFective Kent Project's webpage](#) before 5pm on Monday, 7 June 2021. **This is the last opportunity for Kent schools and academies to access 50% match-funding towards Promising Projects.** The [Promising Project Prospectus](#) provides full details about each of the Promising Projects on offer. There are projects suitable for Primary, Secondary and Special schools.

The EEF are delivering two free implementation training sessions in May. The sessions are 1.5 hours long and are aimed at senior leaders with responsibility for school improvement. The sessions focus on the tools and resources needed to explore, prepare, deliver and sustain change. The training is based on the EEF's [Putting Evidence to Work – A School's Guide to Implementation guidance report](#) with input from Prof Jonathan Sharples. The sessions are useful for any leader wanting a deep understanding of how to identify and respond to a school improvement issue.

There are two online sessions taking place on:

- Thursday, 6 May 2021 from 3:30pm - 5:00pm

OR

- Tuesday, 11 May 2021 from 8:30am - 10:00am

Book your place via the [online booking form](#). Please note that you do not need to attend both sessions and that a separate booking form needs to be completed for each delegate. We encourage you to join one of these sessions if possible, especially if you are considering submitting an application for Promising Project funding.

### **SEND & Learning Behaviours – Bookings Closed & Topics for the next round of evidence-based training**

We had to close the booking window early for the additional SEND & Learning Behaviours evidence-based training, following an extremely high level of requests. If you were considering making an application to take part in this training, please [email us](#) requesting to join the priority booking list for the next round and we will contact you once we have further details to share.

The EEfective Kent Project and the Kent Inclusion Fund are both providing 50% match-funding towards this training, meaning it is free for eligible Kent schools and academies to access.

The EEfective Kent Project is now beginning to start planning for the next round of evidence-based training and want to create an offer that is responsive to the needs of Kent schools and academies. To tell us what you want in the offer for the next round of training, please complete this short [3-minute survey](#) **before Tuesday, 4 May 2021**.

For more information about the EEfective Kent Project offer, please contact [EEfectiveKentProject@Kent.gov.uk](mailto:EEfectiveKentProject@Kent.gov.uk)

### **Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education**

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you of the current discussion regarding our countywide approach to education. The feedback deadline has been extended until the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Feedback can be given through the online form [CATIE online feedback form](#) or by completing the questions set out in the guidance document and emailing: [sendstrategy@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sendstrategy@kent.gov.uk)

Full details and documentation can be found at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/countywide-approach-to-inclusive-education-consultation>

Yours sincerely



Christine McInnes  
**Director of Education**