



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
Sessions House
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Dear Colleagues

The Skills and Employability Service has written to the parents/carers of all Year 11 students this week to alert them to the steps their sons/daughters need to take in relation to applications to Kent sixth forms and FE colleges through the KentChoices website. There is also advice and guidance this year for students who have not yet made any applications and a helpline available for parents and young people to support them in making their applications.

Where parents have contacted the service regarding GCSE grades, the service is advising parents to contact the school in the first instance.

The link to the letter is below.

<https://www.kentprospectus.co.uk/media/1381/2021-03-parentandcarerletter-final-website-version-2.pdf>

We are aware that schools are working hard with Year 11 students to support them in their transition to Post 16. Schools are invited to contact their Engagement Officer if any support is needed with transition activities and to assist with individual students if necessary.

North Kent – Victoria.Lawrence@theeducationpeople.org

South Kent – Guy.Robinson@theeducationpeople.org

East Kent – Zara.Lawrence@theeducationpeople.org

West Kent – Helen.Whitcher@theeducationpeople.org

Symptomatic testing

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

School Visitors and Testing

Under the Operational Guidance, visitors to schools are acceptable where required. This may include visitors to support the operation of the school, such as temporary supply staff, or visitors to support the health, wellbeing and safety of individual pupils, such as therapists or social workers.

Schools should ensure site guidance on physical distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival. Where visits can happen safely outside of school hours, they should, although this is unlikely to be appropriate for visitors supporting individual children. A record should be kept of all visitors with sufficient detail to support rapid contact tracing if required by NHS Test and Trace.

Many visitors, particularly those in health and social care professions will already have access to routine asymptomatic testing through their employer based risk assessment, it is not necessary for visitors to be required to undertake LFD testing.

Yours sincerely



Christine McInnes
Director of Education