



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
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Dear Colleagues

Meeting the Secondary headteachers in Ashford

I was delighted to be invited to join the Ashford Secondary Headteacher's Management Committee meeting on Friday 23rd, kindly hosted by Richard Billings at The Tower School and Sixth Form Centre. It was really interesting to meet the group as well as to have the opportunity to see the community café run by The Towers; I can also highly recommend the breakfast!

The main item for discussion was the effectiveness of the current collaboration at keeping challenging youngsters in school, rather than excluding them. For the majority of pupils this is working well, but their evaluation shows a small minority of pupils need a different approach with additional support and expertise. The group of headteachers have agreed to work together with some expert input to explore this issue further and to scope a creative solution.

Transition

As we speed towards the end of the academic year our minds turn to transition. We are working on fuller transition guidance that will take into account of any changes to Government guidance as we move through the roadmap stages. However, our position is that schools should go ahead with usual transition activities as much as possible, following a risk assessment. This is particularly important, this year, given the lost opportunities for learning and socialising through lockdown.

We are also setting up a task and finish group which will focus on transition, in particular, in relation to vulnerable CYP and those with SEND, details of this group are being circulated through KAH. If you are interested in joining please contact your KAH Area rep or celia.buxton2@kent.gov.uk

DFE Return Education settings status form and COVID notification.

The DFE collect data through the daily Education Settings Status form to help monitor the impact of COVID-19 and focus support more effectively and keep children safe. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>

Please can I remind schools of the importance of returning this form regularly.

Please may I also remind you that there is no longer a need to complete the KCC covid notification.

Reconnect

We continue to work with the whole community of Kent to ensure our children and young people can access the broadest range of activities and events as part of our Reconnect Programme. We are designing a community based programme around the wants and needs of the children and young people; a programme of positive, engaging and exciting opportunities and activities that help them reconnect with:

- Health and happiness
- Learning missed
- Friends, family and community
- Sports, activities and the outdoors
- Economic wellbeing

Please can remind you of the feedback form that enables you to share your ideas and inform the design of the programme. We would greatly appreciate you sparing 10 mins to fill in [this form](#).

SEND strategy published.

We have now published the SEND strategy <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities> – Please could I ask that you publish a link to this on your websites.

Yours sincerely



Christine McInnes
Director of Education