



NOTICE RE INTERNET ACCESS AND DIGITAL DEVICES SCHEME – 29TH APRIL 2020

Introduction

Many of our families and carers will be aware that the Department for Education has announced a scheme for providing digital devices and internet access to specific groups of learners. This will certainly support some of our learners with their remote education during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak and is greatly welcomed by all of our Trust schools.

Care Leavers or those with a Social Worker

Local Authorities have been provided with guidance as to how they can support care leavers, and those children and young people with a social worker. Our families, carers and other stakeholders may wish to be aware that our Trust (and its schools) has not been allocated specific resources for these learners and so all queries in relation to this should be directed to the Local Authority in the first instance.

Year 10

The Department for Education has provided Academy Trusts with information relating to disadvantaged secondary school pupils (Year 10) who do not have access to a laptop or tablet to access their remote education. With a view to being open and transparent, our Trust has been given a fixed initial allocation of just 9 devices for our Year 10 cohort; this has been based on the number of eligible children and young people for whom the Trust is responsible and who the Department for Education has estimated do not have access to a device through other means.

To ensure that the 9 devices are distributed fairly and appropriately, the following criteria have been considered and **all** must apply in order to ensure eligibility:

- Those who are not eligible through alternative sources (care leaver and/ or who have an allocated social worker)
- Those in receipt of pupil premium grant
- Those who are eligible for free school meals
- Those who are undertaking a sustained and accredited study programme

Receipt of Devices

Details regarding dispatch of devices has yet to be confirmed however, supporting vulnerable children with a social worker and care leavers is likely to remain the highest priority.

We fully appreciate that there will be many families who are disappointed not to be allocated a laptop or tablet at this time. Notwithstanding this, the Trust schools are working hard to ensure that all learners continue to be fully supported during this challenging time.

Best wishes

Angela Holdsworth
CEO