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To: Headteachers, Principals, Chairs of Governing Boards, FE Colleges and Multi-Academy Chief Executives

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Our ref IP/VB

Your ref

Date 20 April 2020

Dear Colleague

## Re: Remote Learning

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of your staff for the work you invested to keep your school open to both key worker children and vulnerable young people during the Easter break. It was an amazing effort, and this enabled over one thousand Derbyshire key workers to help keep the both county and country safe and running.

You will most probably have seen yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for Education with regards to remote learning. If you have missed it, then the links to the announcements are below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-with-technology-for-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning>

The announcement highlights that the order lines will be available on Wednesday and we will circulate any guidance to you if we receive anything in advance. In particular, we are seeking clarification about a number of issues with regards to this and we have been informed that DfE will provide further details shortly. In particular, we are seeking clarification about which young people are specifically in scope under the Government's definition of:

- internet access and digital devices (such as laptops) for **some** disadvantaged secondary school pupils who do not already have them.

We are also seeking clarification on issues such as how many laptops or tablets an individual household could access, firewalls, longer term ownership and also other issues which have been highlighted in the education press.

In the meantime, you are best placed to know which of your pupils and students may meet the Government's definition so that you can begin to place your orders on Wednesday.

You will note that the guidance also covers children with a social worker. You already have a record of which children at your school have a named social worker, including children in care, and therefore please include these within your analysis and keep the social worker of eligible young people informed at all times. Derbyshire County Council will work with you to decide whether you or the council will

ascertain whether a new young person who is allocated a social worker has access to the right technology. Similarly, please also build into your thinking young people who you may not have seen for a while prior to the coronavirus outbreak. These are young people who may meet the Government's criteria and who are still technically on your school roll, but may have been in hospital or may be working with an alternative provider etc.

Many thanks for all of your help to keep the county safe and running. We appreciate everything that you are doing and please pass my thanks on to all of your staff.

Yours sincerely

*Jane Parfremment*

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