

LINK19 College  
North Kent College  
LINK Centre Block H  
Lower Higham Road  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 2JJ



Registered Office  
LINK19 College Ltd  
Ifield School  
Cedar Avenue  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 5JT

Head of LINK19 College:  
Miss Denise Moore

Tel: School 01474 365485  
Tel: LINK19 College 01322 629733  
Email: [enquiries@link19college.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@link19college.ac.uk)

Executive Headteacher:  
Mrs Abigail Birch

18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: reopening of LINK19 College to more learners in Term 6

We know you will have seen in the news that schools may reopen on 1 June 2020 to reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils, if the government thinks that it is safe at that time.

The government has also mentioned that students who are in Years 10 and 12 may also access some schooling before the end of this academic year.

However, for LINK19 College, which is formally a special post-16 institution, the guidance from the government is different. The extract from the guidance is below.

**‘Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups’.**

(Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings  
Published 11 May 2020)

Unfortunately, we continue to be unable to access the LINK Centre which is located on North Kent College Campus in Gravesend. Unless this changes we will not be able to increase our learner numbers significantly. This is because we are temporarily based at Ifield School which will also be welcoming more pupils back to school from 1 June 2020.

It is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready for more learners to attend if it is safe to do so and the accommodation is available over the coming weeks.

Learner and staff safety will always be of paramount importance and will guide all of our decisions.

We will also consider the availability of college staff, their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and their wellbeing needs in relation to their self-isolation and shielding status.

Please be assured that we will continue to follow all government guidance and put in place the measures that are required to keep people as safe as possible. However, there is no doubt that whatever measures are put in place we cannot eliminate the risk that the virus could spread in amongst college learners and

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staff due to the fact that we work in close proximity to each other. Therefore, we will only allow more learners to attend as part of a gradual transition.

In the meantime, the college is still open **only** for our most vulnerable learners and the young people of critical key workers. The learners who are now attending LINK19 College at Ifield School will be able to continue to attend after 1 June 2020. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we are not in a position at the moment to extend places to other learners until 1 June 2020. A member of the college leadership team has been making contact with you over the past few days to discuss with you and your young person whether you need provision prior to the summer holidays or you can continue to keep your young person safe at home over the coming weeks.

We would like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your young person to continue to learn at home. We will need to keep going with this approach for a while yet, so please continue to access the resources on the college website and stay in touch with us about how your young person is doing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of LINK19 staff on the main school telephone number 01474 365485 or by email [enquiries@link19college.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@link19college.ac.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abigail Birch'.

**Abigail Birch**  
Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Moore'.

**Denise Moore**  
Head of LINK19 College