

October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope you are all safe and well during this very difficult time. I am writing to you on behalf of the Milton Keynes Secondary Headteachers' group (MKSH) to highlight how secondary Headteachers in Milton Keynes are working together, especially during the COVID – 19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

The MKSH group was formed over 10 years ago with the overall aim of working collaboratively on educational issues, and essentially, working in partnership to improve the educational outcomes for all Milton Keynes students. As a MKSH group we meet eight times per year, with representation from the Local Authority and other key agencies to identify best practice, share ideas around the curriculum, safeguarding and how to develop the educational landscape towards 2050 and beyond.

One area that has really highlighted the benefit of this collaborative working and continued support has been during the COVID – 19 pandemic. Headteachers and their senior teams are having to balance so many aspects of school life, from the day-to-day operations through to long term strategic plans. The MKSH group have been able to share concerns, strategies and actions plans to minimise the risk of the virus spreading and thoughts on tackling any COVID – 19 cases. Examples of how we work together include:

- Reviewing the latest guidance from the Department for Education and the Local Authority.
- Sharing plans on reopening in early June and from September 2020.
- Sharing key information with the Local Authority on Key Worker Childcare provision.
- Identifying ways that school can help the local community during the pandemic - examples include the manufacture and distribution of PPE, using school facilities for baby vaccinations to take pressure away from hospitals, distributing food parcels to vulnerable groups and ensuring Free School Meal provision was provided. There are lots of examples of how local secondary schools have supported not just their direct school community, but the wider Milton Keynes community as well.
- Discussing approaches to reducing the potential spread of COVID – 19 such as face coverings, staggered starts/exits, one-way systems and enhanced cleaning provision.
- Sharing ideas and resources on how to deliver remote learning.
- Identifying approaches on COVID– 19 cases and how to minimise the risks to others and retain continuity of education.

The unity and shared approach of those with the MKSH group has shown the best of collaborative working and that we operate together, not in isolation. I would like to thank all Headteachers for their openness and I can assure you as parents/ carers and students that through our individual schools and the MKSH group we are doing our very best to support the outcomes and opportunities for all Milton Keynes students.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Tett
Chair: MKSH

