



Dartford
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Principal: **Mrs Anne Davis**

Tel: 01322 224309
Fax: 01322 222445
Email: office@dstc.kent.sch.uk
www.dstc.kent.sch.uk

Heath Lane
Dartford
Kent
DA1 2LY

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Dear Parents and Students

After a very challenging year, I wanted to highlight some of the support networks that families and students could, if they needed to, access over the upcoming summer holidays. KCC have put into place, '**Reconnect**' - a programme aimed to support students both academically and socially after the Covid-19 pandemic. More details can be found here:

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/reconnect>.

Through the Reconnect Programme, KCC has also commissioned the **Invicta Academy**. Students and parents are able to directly book online sessions in English and Maths to support academic catch up and also wellbeing sessions every Wednesday. Fitness 'blast' sessions are also offered daily at 9.30am. Bookings can be made online via the website below:

- Invicta Academy - www.invictaacademy.com

Reconnect Card - for students claiming Free School Meals (FSM)

Kent County Council (KCC) is committed to helping children and young people Reconnect to different aspects of their lives as we move out of covid restrictions, for example their health and happiness, learning, enjoying activities with friends and family.

KCC is keen that wherever possible providers enable children receiving free school meals (FSM) access to opportunities either free or at a reduced price. To support this KCC is issuing an electronic Reconnect Voucher which families can use to access these offers.

During this year parents of FSM students have been receiving supermarket vouchers during the holidays to help you meet the costs of buying food. The company which sends these to you, Wonde, will also send you the electronic Reconnect Voucher. Currently the Voucher can be used to:

- Access free holiday and food clubs running across Kent, which provide at least 4 hours a day of activities, 4 days a week. Children on FSM can attend these for 4 weeks during the summer. If you have any questions about this, please talk to us before the end of term.
- To buy a discounted leisure centre pass for your child. Most public leisure centres have agreed to offer a 6-week summer membership to children and young people for £25, but you can use the Reconnect Voucher to buy this for £10 per child.

The Reconnect Card is important if you want to take up either of these offers. During the course of the next year, it is likely further discounts will be made available using the card, so please keep it safe.

KCC is currently putting together a parent/carer leaflet with all Reconnect opportunities available and how to access these, including the two above, which will be sent out to you next week.



There are many agencies that are able to support families. Some are listed below:

Organisation	Telephone/email	Web address
	<p>NHS mental health support</p> <p>Online survey to complete</p> <p>Call: 111 or in an emergency 999</p>	<p>https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline</p>
	<p>Childline</p> <p>Call: 0800 1111</p>	<p>https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/</p>
	<p>Young Minds (Youth Mental Health charity)</p> <p>Text: 85258</p>	<p>https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/</p>
	<p>Mind (wellbeing Charity)</p> <p>Call: 0300 123 3393</p>	<p>https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/help-lines/</p>
	<p>NSPCC</p> <p>Children call: 08001111</p> <p>Parents/carers: Email: help@nspcc.org.uk</p> <p>Call: 08088005000</p>	<p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/</p>
	<p>Beat Eating Disorders</p> <p>Call: 0808 801 0711</p>	<p>https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/</p>
	<p>KidScape (parent advice)</p> <p>Call: 020 7823 5430</p> <p>Email: parentsupport@kidscape.org.uk</p>	<p>http://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/parent-advice-line/</p>

Food Bank:

Dartford Foodbank runs a weekly programme to provide support to those in need within the community every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. Dartford Foodbank is now managed by City of David Dartford Church, the aim of this project is to provide support to individuals and families in Dartford. For more information <https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=KX-RckbuYQg>

I hope that you are able to enjoy some well deserved family time and look forward to seeing students next term.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Deborah', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Deborah Ellis
Vice Principal / DSL