



To parents and carers of pupils at  
Chilmington Green Secondary School

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Our Ref: DA/CG/Parents1  
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Dear Parents and Carers

### **New Secondary School site**

I am sure your child is excitedly looking forward to moving to the new school site in September. Work is progressing at pace to provide a fabulous learning environment, with fantastic facilities, which the whole school community can be proud of.

I am aware that parents have been asking about access to the new secondary school site and there has been recent media interest. I write to advise you of the current position.

You may be aware that there is a planning condition which prevents the occupation of the new school building until certain new road and pedestrian access routes have been opened to public use. These should have been delivered and paid for by the developer, Hodson Developments Ltd (Hodson). To ensure the school could be occupied, and to help Hodson, Kent County Council (KCC) agreed to loan them funds to deliver the works - the new access road, the roundabout off the A28, and the walking route along Chilmington Green Road between Chilmington Avenue and the school site. Hodson started work to provide these, but despite Hodson drawing down loan funding from KCC, these works remain incomplete.

KCC has stepped-in to complete the road infrastructure. Work on this commenced during the Easter holidays and we are aiming to get this completed by the end of August 2025.

Our focus is on completing the access works to enable the school to relocate for the start of the academic year. However, as you would expect we are working on all available contingencies, in case there is a problem and these works are not complete for then.

One contingency is an application to have the planning condition lifted or amended to allow the new school building to be occupied in the event the road and/or footpath access are not complete for September.

Should the planning condition be lifted and the planned road/pedestrian/cycle routes are not in place for September, there will be a temporarily increased number of children/young people entitled to free transport until the works are completed.

To be eligible for free school transport, a child must fulfil a number of criteria based in legislation. The first criterion that applies to all cases is that the child must be attending the nearest appropriate school to their home. Consideration is then given to whether the route to that school is over a statutory distance of 3 miles for a Secondary aged child, or whether the route to the school would be considered hazardous, regardless of the distance travelled. If the planned road/pedestrian/cycle routes are not in place KCC would consider the journey to the school as hazardous, In effect, this would mean transport would be offered to all children for whom it is the nearest appropriate school. However, once the planned roads are available, the assessment will be repeated and transport will not continue for pupils who no longer qualify.


In a few days time, the Transport Eligibility Team will be writing to all parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school and those who have been offered a place for September 2025 to explain if they would be eligible or not to free school transport. This letter will also explain if this assessment is likely to continue once planned roads are in place, to allow you to plan for any necessary future transport arrangements. Parents/carers will be asked if they would require school transport and routes will then be planned accordingly. We are hoping that school transport is not required and the infrastructure is in place, but given the time it will take to plan transport we have prepare now to ensure it can be put in place if required.

If a child/young person is deemed as not eligible for transport according to the policy, parents/carers have the right to request KCC Members review this decision. This will be outlined to parents/carers in the letter from the Transport Eligibility Team.

The second contingency is to ensure there is sufficient accommodation at the current Jemmett Road site should the school need to remain there for a little longer. We appreciate that this would not be ideal, but we have to plan for this eventuality. Planning has been approved for additional mobile accommodation on site. I want to stress that this is a contingency measure. We all want pupils and staff to occupy the new, state of the art school in September.

I will keep you updated throughout the rest of this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Adams', with a horizontal line underneath.

**David Adams**

Assistant Director Education (South Kent)