Connecting Communities Project

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

I wanted to write to let you know about an exciting project we've been working on for the last few months that we'd like you to benefit from.

What is the Connecting Communities project?

The Connecting Communities project offers families a free high speed internet connection, a device, and IT training to help you make the most of it. The project was jointly set up by the LETTA Trust, Poplar HARCA, LBTH and the East End Community Foundation. They are working with schools to reach families who do not currently have a device such as a laptop or computer, or internet connection. The partnership has raised funds and works with internet providers, so it can be offered to you free of charge.

You have been selected as we think your child, you and your family will benefit from this project.

Why give families a free internet connection?

When we were in lockdown, we realised the importance to families of having a good internet connection in their homes and access to the right devices, both for your children's education and for you to access other services online. Families with access to good IT are at a significant advantage. We want everyone to have that advantage.

What's the catch?

There is no catch. There is nothing that you need to do (apart from agreeing). And there is no cost to you at all - not for the internet connection, not for the device and not for the training.

The project will be for a minimum of a year. If successful and if further funding is secured, we may be able to extend it further.

Will I need to do anything as part of the project?

After you have received your laptop, been connected and accessed the training you don't need to do anything for a few months. In six months to a year's time, we will contact you to ask for your feedback to understand how the project has helped you and your family.

What happens next?

A member of our school team will contact you within the next couple of days to make sure you've seen this letter, explain everything and ask you if you are happy to proceed. They will also be able to answer any questions you may have.

Your device has been ordered; we will contact you in due course about how to come and collect it and to let you know about your training dates.

You'll receive a call from the internet provider, who'll be carrying out the connection, shortly after you have received your device.

We are incredibly excited to be involved in a project of this kind and very much hope you will be too.

Kind regards,

Connecting Communities Partnership

FAQs:

1. I already have broadband so what are my options?

The internet connection we are offering is free for a year so it will not cost you anything. You can speak to your current provider, and if they ask for a cancellation fee, this is likely to be cheaper than paying for broadband for a year. However, if you do decide to stay with your current provider, or it may be that you share a house and someone else is in charge of the broadband, that is fine. You do not need to take up the offer of free internet connection and can just receive the laptop and access the training.

2. I do not wish to take part in the project, can I still have the laptop?

The laptop is a part of this project. We want to understand how this project may have helped you and your family. Over the next year you will be contacted to answer some questions and tell us what you thought of the project.

3. Is the internet restricted?

It will be unlimited internet with no restrictions on usage or websites.

4. How fast is the internet?

Superfast with upload and download speed of 50Mbps. Great for video calling and live lessons.

5. Will I own the device, or do I have to give it back?

The device is yours to keep.

GDPR and Data Protection Statement

The personal information that is collected above can only be viewed by authorised people in the Connecting Communities partnership and our evaluators. The partners will not share personal information with anyone else without getting your permission to do so. Any data that is shared will be anonymised and aggregated, so it won't be possible for anyone to know your identity.

The school and partners will make sure your personal information is stored securely and safely and that we will abide by all GDPR, data protection and privacy laws.

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