

## **Independent schools: supporting the fight against Covid-19**

Independent schools are playing their part in the national fightback against COVID-19 – working together with state schools and critical services within their local communities. As part of the education system, they are helping their local areas in a range of different ways – below are just a handful of examples.

### ***Support for the elderly & vulnerable***

- Independent schools have remained open during the lockdown to provide care for vulnerable children and those of key workers.
- Some schools have offered their spare capacity to Local Authorities, for pupils from outside their school to ensure key workers can go to work and provide essential services.
- **Granville School**, Kent, has been collecting for local food and hygiene banks – with staff and parents volunteering to work at the food banks.
- Students from **Millfield School**, Somerset, arranged personalised video messages to residents at a local care home, who are being shielded.

### ***Providing learning to pupils at home***

- Independent schools are sharing online resources with local schools, or where possible making them freely available to all. This is supporting children to continue their education whilst at home and helping to mitigate the impact of school closures.
- **East Kent Schools Together**, involving 7 schools (independent and state), are hosting a suite of online learning resources, including virtual museum tours, and mental wellbeing resources.
- A list of some of the schools providing resources can be found on the [ISC website](#)

### ***Offering beds for the NHS***

- More than 10,000 beds in over 70 boarding schools have been offered to NHS staff.
- This allows them to rest between shifts, without returning home and running the risk of infecting their loved ones.
- **Gordonstoun School**, in Moray, has offered 530 beds, **Dallam School**, Cumbria, has offered 140 beds, and **Barnard Castle School**, County Durham, has offered 70 beds.

### ***Providing PPE for key workers***

- At least 50 schools nation-wide have donated existing PPE, and/or manufactured additional PPE, to support key workers who need protection.
- This PPE is being donated either to NHS Trusts, or other key workers who are finding it harder to get priority supplies of PPE.
- **Bolton School** donated its science PPE as part of 2,000 pieces provided by schools in the area, and **Frensham Heights**, Surrey, donated 1,000 visors and 1,000 washbags for frontline NHS staff.

*The Independent Schools Council (ISC) brings together seven member associations to represent almost 1,400 schools across the UK, educating more than 500,000 pupils. These schools are diverse, ranging in size from having fewer than 50 pupils to over 2,400, although half of all schools have fewer than 300 pupils*