



## 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 Old Palace to reach **disadvantaged** 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/ren, you and your family will benefit from this project. **As we have a limited amount of devices, disadvantaged families with more than one child at the school will be given priority.**

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.

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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 and to understand how the project has helped you and your family.

What happens next?

If you are happy to proceed and can attend the training sessions, simply go to the school office and ask for a letter which will ask you to fill in your personal details and about your current internet provider if you have one.

As this is a first come, first serve basis (with families with more than one child attending Old Palace), you may not be allocated a device if we have reached capacity.

If you are successful enough to be allocated a device the following will happen:

You'll then receive a call from the internet provider, who'll be carrying out the connection.

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

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?

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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.