

# HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMY

Edinburgh Drive, Darlington  
Co Durham, DL3 8AR

Tel: 01 325 241191  
Fax: 01 325 241122

email: [enquiries@hummersknott.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hummersknott.org.uk)  
web: [www.hummersknott.org.uk](http://www.hummersknott.org.uk)

Executive Principal: Mr J M Keating B Ed Hons NPQH

24 March 2021

## COVID SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

Further to my letter in the autumn term regarding the 2020-21 Covid Support and Intervention Programme, I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the investment of funds as well as ongoing support available to our students when in school and when learning remotely or independently.

The 2020-21 Catch-Up Premium (CUP) is a one-off universal payment from the government to support schools in helping all pupils to make up for lost learning time following the unprecedented disruption to education during the first lockdown. On our website, we have published detailed information regarding our own CUP budget as well as our strategic approach to investing these funds.

We have initially focussed our attention on developing our students' literacy and numeracy skills. We have, for example, invested in the Accelerated Reader scheme as well as the MyON digital library to promote more independent reading. We have also been encouraging our students to engage with current affairs by reading the online newspaper, The Day. All of these resources are available directly from the school portal page. Access to and progress across the wider curriculum are dependent upon good reading skills and we are keen to see our students' reading ability improve instead of regress. In addition, we are currently piloting an online spelling tool which we are hoping to roll out to all students in KS3 during the summer term. In maths, our students are familiar with our basic skills programme and all skills sheets have been uploaded, together with answers, on to our websites for students to access and practise at leisure. Students will continue to receive these enhancements going forwards.

During the autumn term, we were able to obtain a clear picture of individual student progress by subject and begin to invest in a more personalised catch-up programme in each area. Several subjects have invested in revision resources for individual students, some of which



have been created in-house, others have been purchased from publishers and some departments have invested in online learning platforms. We also invested in technology and software to enhance our provision to remote learners during the spring lockdown.

We are striving to support our students who struggle with their reading, numeric and communication skills. Our Inclusion department has therefore invested in several software packages that allow greater support and more targeted interventions. We hope to help our struggling readers, improve ability for low attaining students in mathematics and support the language and communication needs of Key Stage 3 students.

Our strategy, however, does not focus on academic development purely but also considers the social and emotional well-being of our students. We carefully monitored how students resettled into school life during the autumn term and will continue to do so as we return to face-to-face teaching this spring. In November, students in KS3 took a nationally benchmarked survey so that we were able to build a complete picture of their mindset, motivation, attitudes and engagement in learning. With students having returned to school, we will now be acting upon the results by providing tailored advice, strategies and interventions so that our pupils can settle back into school life and re-build their confidence and resilience. We will be closely tracking how all students reacclimatise over the months ahead and we intend to re-run the survey for specific students in the summer term to measure the impact of our interventions.

As students return to face-to-face teaching, we will be closely monitoring gaps in learning, striving to close them and helping all our students reach the level expected of them. As stated, we will endeavour to understand any barriers to learning and ensure all pupils are supported in regard to their wellbeing and mental health.

If you require further information regarding the Catch-Up Premium, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*J Maddren*

Jill Maddren  
Assistant Principal