

# HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMY

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Executive Principal: Mr J M Keating B Ed Hons NPQH

6 November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

The government has made a commitment to provide additional funding to schools for every student in response to the disruption to class-based teaching and learning from the end of March until the summer break. The purpose of this funding is to enable schools to deliver additional support to all students in order to mitigate against gaps in skills and knowledge following the period of prolonged remote learning. This one-off funding will be provided in three separate tranches during the course of the 2020-21 academic year.

Following a full half-term of class-based teaching and learning, we now have a clear picture of individual student progress by subject during the remote learning period and areas where support is required. We have already begun to invest in a personalised catch-up programme for all to ensure our students are able to fulfil their potential in the subjects they study. We will write to you in due course with an outline of the additional provision that will be delivered in each subject. We are initially focussing upon developing our students' literacy and numeracy skills as progress in these key areas will support their access to and success in the wider curriculum. We have continued to invest in the Accelerated Reader scheme, for example, to promote reading for pleasure and improve our students' reading skills. In addition, students can now access MyON ([www.myon.co.uk](http://www.myon.co.uk)), an online digital library with over 1,000 books.

Our strategy, however, does not focus on academic development solely but also considers the social and emotional well-being of our students. The prolonged remote learning period presented many challenges for some students. In some cases, students' attitudes to themselves as well as their learning have been impacted by remote education. Whilst some adapted well to independent working and got used to a different way of working, some have become disengaged and have lost their confidence. We know that some students have been through a period of heightened anxiety. Clearly, there are many different scenarios that can impact how students resettle into school life.

In order to provide the most appropriate pastoral support, we have arranged for all students to take a short 20-minute survey during week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This survey, called PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and Study), is taken online and is a nationally benchmarked survey specifically designed to build a complete picture of a pupils' mindset, motivation, attitudes and engagement in learning. It will be a useful tool to help staff and parents provide tailored advice, strategies and interventions in response to the PASS results which will help our pupils settle back into school life, building their confidence and resilience. We will be closely tracking how students reacclimatise over the months ahead and we intend to re-run the survey in the summer term to measure how well our interventions have worked.

We will provide further information regarding the catch-up premium in due course. If you require additional information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

*Jill Maddren*

J Maddren  
Assistant Principal  
Literacy/Teaching & Learning Development

