



**Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP**  
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Edward Masterson  
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20 July 2020

*Dear Mr Masterson*

I am writing to thank you, Marie Powell, and your team for your work in delivering the English Hubs programme since you were appointed as an English Hub in 2018. Your continued commitment to all three aims of the programme is supporting local schools to improve their teaching of reading through systematic synthetic phonics, early language development and reading for pleasure.

I am grateful for all the work that has taken place across the network since the launch of the hubs programme in 2018. You have successfully supported over 100 schools in your region through high-quality school improvement events.

I understand that over the past few months many things have been uncertain because of Covid-19, and this has undoubtedly affected the work you had planned for the summer term. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting your partner schools, your literacy specialist team and your own school through this difficult period, whilst also working collaboratively with the English team at the department to prepare the programme for the next academic year. A strong English Hub network is going to be a vital component of our national Covid-19 recovery and I know you will endeavour to provide high quality support to schools when they return fulltime in September, ensuring that all pupils catch up with reading.

Thank you again for your continued commitment to and passion for the programme.

With best wishes.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Nick Gibb*