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Dear Fergus,

As a follow-up action from our discussion on 6 July 2022 about touch typing, I agreed to consult Education Scotland officials specifically about resources available to young people with Additional Support Needs to help them develop typing skills.

I understand that there are several free on-line touch typing teaching materials available to learners with Additional Support Needs that sit alongside other commercially available resources. For example, BBC Dance Mat, Touch Typing from "TypingClub" and a free typing class from bigbrownbear.co.uk. In addition, CALL (Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning) Scotland have developed a typing practice workbook to assist learners in tracking and recording their progress.

You may also wish to be aware that Highland Council have purchased the literacy support tool "Read&Write" that has shown to improve students' reading and writing using features including text-to-speech, picture dictionaries and word prediction. This resource is available to young people with Additional Support Needs and has been installed on Chromebooks and tablet devices available across the authority.

I hope this information is helpful.

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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