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The Earl of Effingham
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Dear Edward

I am writing to follow up the point you raised during the recent Lords Oral Question on 23 April regarding the new National Centre for Arts and Music Education. As you highlighted, the government recently ended funding for some of our science and computing programmes.

This government has inherited significant pressures on public finances and difficult decisions must be made on how money is spent right across the public sector to ensure we deliver on our priorities. Despite these challenges, the government continues to promote and support participation in both computing and science.

As part of this support for science, the government is continuing to fund the Subject Knowledge for Physics Teaching programme. This is a series of blended learning courses covering the key stage 3 and key stage 4 physics curriculum to support non-specialist teachers of physics to enhance their subject knowledge.

For computing, the government is continuing to fund the National Centre for Computing Education, to support teachers through the provision of online CPD, as well as other elements such as industry-led outreach events, a GCSE and A level revision platform, programmes to encourage more girls into computing and a self-assessment tool for schools to review their computing provision.

As for all our programmes, future funding to support computing and science will be subject to the outcomes of the next spending review.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on this important topic. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Blake of Leeds, CBE

