Help for those who need it

From tablets and laptops on loan to emotional support, here is some of the assistance being provided to students from disadvantaged homes.

- More than 4,000 students have been going back to school during the home-based learning period, making up 1 per cent of those in primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and centralised institutes.
- More than 1,200 Internet-enabling devices, such as routers and dongles, have been loaned to students by schools, as of April 22.
- About 45,000 primary and secondary school students benefit from the meal subsidy programme. They receive top-ups on their school smartcard for buying food and essential groceries in hawker centres, foodcourts and supermarkets.
- More than 20,000 tablets and laptops have been loaned to students by schools, as of April 22.
- More than 50% have parents who work in essential services.
- About 350 volunteer tele-befrienders from 5 voluntary organisations help to actively monitor and support students’ social, emotional and mental health needs. They check on students and motivate them through phone calls and text messages.
- About 50 students across 8 schools benefit from the initiative.

A Northland Secondary School student baking cookies.

SOURCE AND PHOTO: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION   STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS