

Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Premium

Overview

At Villiers High school, those Year 7 pupils who have not achieved the expected standards in KS2 National Curriculum assessments get extra funding. This Catch-Up funding helps to fund a number of projects including a Transition Group, extra reading interventions and extra support in some of the lessons. This funding has also contributed towards addressing the issue of language acquisition and consolidation, continuing and expanding its programme of one-to-one and small group tuition. In addition, all pupils have the opportunity to have a free breakfast in the mornings.

Our pupils also benefit from heavily subsidised programme of enrichment opportunities ranging from visiting farms, museums in London to some overseas and residential trips. These visits serve to broaden pupils' horizons and expose them to opportunities they would not otherwise experience. It is difficult to measure the positive impact of these visits, but even within the confines of the examination system, a question on an English Language paper asking pupils to write a letter detailing a visit on the tube or to a farm could prove difficult without exposure to the kinds of experiences educational trips can provide. However, in organising educational trips and visits the school is not just targeting those eligible for catch up funding, but instead provides opportunities for the whole pupil body.

Funding Allocation for 2018-19

Catch Up Premium: £18,296

How we Intend to Spend the Allocation for 2018-19

This year, we will build on the allocations from the previous year due to the positive impact historical expenditure has had on pupil progress. We continue to review the staff skills and invest heavily in training staff to meet the needs of pupils who are making progress behind peers at the end of KS2; this is a particular challenge for us given our school context, with a higher than national average proportion of pupils with EAL.

We continue to refer to sources of evidence to judge how the funding is best spent. We identify that individual and small group tuition, effective sourcing of external specialist material and software and catch up sessions help pupils to make great progress. We already have programmes in place to fund these strategies and will continue to review resources available on the market to ensure we tap into the best services on the market.

In particular, for 2018-19 we are spending the premium on:

- CATs testing – to identify where relative strengths and areas for improvement lie for pupils without KS2 data. This makes up nearly half our cohorts. This acts as a tool we use to identify those most in need.
- Employing a Data Manager – this member of the team has the technical expertise to analyse and interpret KS2 data into a format that enable leadership to identify pupils in need of support and the level of the support needed.
- Maths Watch subscription – this software provides explanations and support with pupils on areas of numeracy. It also provides guidance and feedback based on assessments pupils complete. They are able to access this outside of the classroom using a range of computer devices.

- Staffing – we have invested heavily in staffing within the mathematics team with TLRs for teachers to provide leadership in shaping the KS3 curriculum and to inform banding. They are qualified professionals who help to shape an effectively differentiated curriculum.
- Staffing – we have a specialist literacy coordinator in the school who works closely with the EAL department. This collaboration and expertise ensure we are able to provide pupils behind with their English with support not only in English lessons but also small withdrawal groups to boost their learning.
- PiXL membership fee – membership of this club allows our coordinator to attend specialist events and use resources such as Words of the Week with pupils which is integrated into our weekly programme of learning.
- PiXL Unlock – a new package which provides us with a specialist set of resources which break the cultural barriers down relating to the use of English phrases. Improving the reading and comprehension of pupils.
- Paired reading initiative – led by literacy coordinator. Linking up Y7 pupils with Y12 pupils – who have been inducted in the process.
- Accelerated Reader subscription – this allows pupils to select books appropriate to their reading age and also enables them to test themselves in relation to reading progress; providing more guidance on suitable books when reading age changes.
- Debate Club – funded lunchtime club open to all pupils, especially Y7 Catch Up. This is staffed by specialists and cover is funded to allow staff to accompany students to debate events outside of school. Pupil transport costs are also covered.

Details of How the Previous Years' Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Premium was Spent

Total of 47 pupils at £500 – total of £23500

Breakdown:

Activity/resource: Accelerated Reader and Star Reading Test Licence £4534.00

Transition class – Half a teacher salary and on costs £18,466.00

LSA support – one hour a week £500.00

Overall Total £23500

NOTE: the remaining items summarised on strategies we used in 2017-18 demonstrate how the remainder of the funds were invested. Note, the expenditure took us beyond the Catch Up Premium funding amount; as a school we believed it was important to allocate more funding than the premium to improve the literacy and numeracy of the pupils that were granted funding for the premium.

Summary of Expenditure and Related Strategies to Improve the Progress for Pupils Eligible for Catch Up Funding

- Continuation of Transition Group
- Renewal of Accelerated Reader and Star Testing
- One to one reading interventions during tutor time
- Library lesson each week
- Additional in-class support for Mathematics
- After school interventions for Mathematics and English

Details of How the Previous Years' Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Premium Made a Difference to Eligible Pupils

In addition to the broader enrichment opportunities, we measured the impact of the funding through internal assessments at the end of the academic year as well as using externally set assessments for numeracy and literacy. The internal data showed that pupils made strong progress from the beginning of the academic year.

External assessments such as Maths Watch trackers also demonstrated that engagement with numeracy was strong and use of tutorials made a difference to marks gained in maths modules on this online platform.

With literacy, the STAR reading tests showed that pupils moved above benchmark over time. We will continue to review data sets and are currently in the process of measuring the impact of the reading tests on the Y7 2017-18 cohort just over one year on. Initial analyses demonstrate that a higher proportion of pupils are now 'At/Above Benchmark.'

How the 2018-19 Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Premium Impact will be Measured

For the current academic year, we will consider engagement with enrichment clubs as measured through our enrichment registers. In addition, we will use Maths Watch, Star reading Test assessment data and internal assessments with a progress score using KS2 data as a base and progress 8 methodology using our 4Matrix analysis system. The review points will be three times a year for each method with a progress summary focusing on all pupils and those eligible for Catch Up funding.

Progress Update as of May 2019

One fifth of the current Y7 cohort qualified for catch up funding at the beginning of the academic year. The current Catch Up funding has had a significant impact over the two terms that progress has been reviewed. These pupils have struggled to make the same progress as their peers during their primary school years and attain lower grades. At the end of the spring assessments, the progress average in English was +0.52. For English, 62% of pupils made progress in line with or above average progress score of +0. In maths the progress average was around the average progress at -0.1. For maths, 43% of pupils made progress in line with or above average progress score of +0.