

Gunnersbury Catholic School

The impact of 2018/2019 Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch-Up Premium Strategy

The literacy and numeracy catch-up premium provides schools with an additional £500 for each Year 7 pupil who did not achieve the expected level in their reading and/or maths SAT's at the end of Key Stage 2.

The catch-up premium of £6,962 which we received for the academic year 2018-19 was allocated in the following ways:

Literacy Catch-Up

Thirty-Six Year 7 pupils attended literacy interventions either as part of a small group led by a teaching assistant or through completion of a targeted literacy based computer program.

The group work was led by teaching assistants who delivered a fifty minute session of targeted literacy support throughout the academic year. The main focus of the sessions was on developing students' writing through activities targeting grammar, punctuation, sentence construction and vocabulary building. Work was also undertaken on developing the students' ability to respond to key language questions. In addition to this all students completed the Lexia Computer Program. This program helped to develop their reading comprehension. Sessions were organised on three mornings each week before school. Students were required to attend school from 8.00am to complete the program. Each session lasted, as recommended by the program creators, for twenty minutes. Student attendance and engagement with the sessions was generally very good with positive progress being made in improving reading ages. Average progress over the year was one year and eight months, with attainment across the cohort moving from an average reading age of 9.39 years to an average of 11.1 years.

As a result of the participation in this course, and input through their English lessons, pupil levels measured by their end of year English assessments showed that thirty of the thirty-six students either reached or exceeded their end of year target grade in English (as measured by the final examination/assessment taken in Year 7). For some students their performance was even more exceptional as they had progressed by an entire level.

Overall, the course was very successful with the majority of boys stating that they had enjoyed participating.

Numeracy Catch-Up

Students who arrived to Gunnersbury below the expected level in their key stage 2 SATS for Mathematics received regular after school intervention sessions. There were a total of fourteen students who received this intervention. These students were taught by teachers from the Maths department. They worked as part of a very small group, no more than six students, on a structured programme designed to address any areas of weakness they had within the subject.

Of these fourteen students, every one made good progress over the course of the year. All met or exceeded their target grade, with some exceeding it by as many as one or two whole levels.

Students clearly enjoyed participating in the programme and derived great benefit in developing their mathematical skills. They also appreciated the opportunity to work as part of a small group.

Literacy/Numeracy Catch-Up Premium Plans 2019-2020

It is anticipated that for the forthcoming academic year the interventions for both literacy and numeracy will be organised in a similar way to 2018/2019. Twenty-six students have been identified as meeting the criteria for support with literacy (either reading and/or grammar) and eleven have been identified as requiring additional input for numeracy creating a total budget of £6,962. Sessions for both literacy and numeracy will be organised in a similar way to this year. Students and parents will be notified of arrangements by letter.