

Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium - October 2019

Funding allocation for the current academic year

Funding for the 2019/20 financial year is estimated to be £16,477 – this is the same figure as that received during the 2018/19 financial year.

How previous year's allocation was spent

Literacy

In the last two years there has been a key focus on literacy at The Blandford School, this has included reading and the development of tier two and three vocabulary across the curriculum. We are mindful that students need to be exposed to and understand a level of vocabulary to access the curriculum successfully but also to be successful in examinations. Students also need to be able to read fluently and at their chronological age. We have therefore invested in the Thinking Reading Package and associated staff training to ensure those students who join us in Year 7 below the expected standard are able to 'catch up'.

The programme focuses particularly on accuracy and speed, which then allows the student to comprehend the contents.

All students receive a screening test, those identified as needing to catch up are being tested further, prior to diagnostic testing. Students then have three sessions per week on a 1:1 basis until their reading is in-line with their chronological age.

*Note – fewer students received this support in 2018-2019 than will be expected to be supported in 2019-2020 and onwards due to the training requirement before the programme could commence.

We have cross referenced those students whose SATs results were 96 and below with those students who were identified as requiring the Thinking Reading programme from the screening tests to ensure all students have been considered. There are a number of additional students identified as benefitting from intervention, though we have prioritised those students identified by the Key Stage two scores.

Numeracy

Numeracy intervention has focused on the success@arithmetic programme. This is run in small groups of three to four students and a member of staff. The focus is the foundations of Maths and having secure methods to undertake number based problems. All the students identified as in need of catch up were placed on the programme.

Students requiring the intervention have been identified by their SATs results being 96 and below, additional students have been included as a result of Maths base line assessments.

How last year's allocation made a difference to the progress/attainment of the students who benefit from the funding

Literacy

Students rate of progress is impressive with this intervention. Students are making between 0.6 and 3 months progress per session. Students will access the intervention on a rolling programme.

Long term these students will have the correct reading ability to access the full curriculum which will accelerate their progress.

Numeracy

56 students were identified, via SATs results and baseline testing, as requiring additional support. During the academic year all had timetabled access to the intervention. 53 'graduated' from the programme, those who have yet to graduate are still within the programme.

These students are being supported via the nurture group arrangement in Maths. The attainment identified for this cohort was at least 20% above their peers. 50% of the students who received the catch-up support and were in the nurture group have moved up at least one Maths set.

How The Blandford School intends to spend the catch-up allocation?

Literacy

The Thinking Reading programme will continue to be our primary investment. Early testing for year 7 will be completed during the Autumn term and students can then be enrolled for 1:1 support.

Costings –

2 x online test £645 for 2019/20 (£995 for 2018/19)

7 x staff probe testing. (approx. 25 students 1 hour each) £1,000

5 x staff running 1:1 programme – 3x 30mins per student plus 30 min admin per week £15,200

Numeracy

Success@arithmetic is underway with the first eight students being seen in two groups twice per week. 16 students have been tested and identified so far. This also links into the lessons in the nurture groups in Maths and Learning support lessons.

In addition to this we have included nurture groups in Maths. These include 2 groups in Year 7 and these lessons are based around the success@arithmetic.

Costings –
2 x staff x 2 pm reg groups £870

In addition to the specific catch up interventions The Blandford School also support students via Learning Support Lessons, ELSA and additional mentoring where appropriate.

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