

Coronavirus catch-up premium – UPDATE AUTUMN 2020

The school is mindful of guidance from the DfE, Educational Endowment Fund as well as OFSTED's recent findings. Our own experience with Pupil Premium funding over many years provides a helpful starting point too.

Young people across the country have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education. Those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds will be among the hardest hit. The government has announced funding to support young people catch-up. Schools should use this funding for specific activities to provide support for their pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months. The EEF support guide includes small group and one-to-one tuition. Given the rural nature of our catchment it is envisaged that our one-hour lunchtime affords many opportunities for catch up.

Clearly all teachers and tutors have an important role in their day to day work in ensuring children catch up and make progress. Narrowing gaps has been a credible goal over many years. However, in addition to this, school assessments will probably suggest that a number of children will benefit from specific interventions that go beyond our usual work.

So far, we have appointed a number of Teaching and Learning Responsibility Posts (TLR) called Academic Co-ordinators. These co-ordinators have specific responsibilities are also working closely with Heads of Year. In some cases, they are working with a small team of Academic Tutors. This work is being overseen by an Assistant Headteacher and progress is being shared with the wider Senior Management Team.

We have also identified that during lockdown children's socialisation as well as wider well-being was affected. We are currently seeking to recruit more staff for some emerging roles and we are exploring a post which could support the pastoral team. This post could support pupils' mental health too.

Year 11 have returned positively but are naturally anxious about their GCSE examinations. As more detail emerges about specific learning gaps, it is likely that in the run up to final assessments, targeted subject intervention will be offered during the Spring Term.

We are also keeping an eye on the National Tutoring Programme and should the interventions above not cover any gaps that the NTP is clearly doing, we will explore this further. At the outset, we established the principle that the funds should go on front-line work and that there is an advantage from pupils working with staff that they already know and can engage with meaningfully.

This emerging document will be updated from time to time and we will seek a more detailed budget allocation in due course. Approximately, we are managing £71K of income. At the moment this has been divided fairly equally between: Academic Co-ordinator and Tutor posts; Potential Pastoral Support; and Year 11 Subject Support. However, as the money will not all be 'spent' in one go, we are planning some flexibility so that we can respond positively to emerging trends or the identification of new strategies.