

Year 7 Catch Up Premium

DSTC is committed to ensuring our girls' literacy and numeracy skills are as advanced as possible and are, at least, at the expected standard for their age. As a publically funded school we received funding to support Year 7 students who did not achieve the expected standard in Reading or Maths at the end of KS2. In 2019/20 DSTC was allocated £15,655 for Year 7 Catch Up Premium. The money was spent as follows:

Accelerated Reader Package	£1,377
Maths Watch Package	£450.00
Academic Assistants (English and Maths) *	£13,505
Additional resources (books, photocopying etc)	£420
Total	£15,657.00

*One English and one Maths Academic Assistant, each supporting Year 7 students for 40% of their time.

Please note that it is difficult to fully explain the impact of the premium spend due to Covid 19 lockdown in March that meant Year 7 students did not return to school until September 2020.

Literacy

The English Academic Assistant was used to support students in lesson time, through one-on-one support and individual support for students with medical needs who had missed a significant proportion of the year. One student (with multiple medical needs) was offered support to keep up to date with work and to catch up with tasks missed due to absence. Another was offered support with annotations as she also has medical needs and although able was struggling to keep up.

Renaissance Accelerated Reader was purchased and a member of staff was designated to implement these lessons and track progress. The Renaissance programme targeted students significantly below their reading age with all students on the programme improving by at least 6 months over the course of 4 months. By the end of the programme significant success stories include a student with a reading age of 6 year 10 months that jumped to 8 years 2 months, another whose reading age moved from 7 years 4 months to 8 years 5 months and finally, a student whose reading age went from 6 years to 7 years 8 months.

Numeracy

The Maths Academic Assistant works with the lowest ability students in Year 7 alongside their class teacher to improve student confidence in maths. 85% said their confidence and enjoyment of maths had improved over the programme.

Mathswatch was regularly used to increase confidence outside of lesson time in year 7.

A group of 9 students were targeted for small group intervention sessions before school once per week for 7 weeks. The average progress of these students was 1.6 sub-levels (measured from their baseline assessment to their teacher assessment grade in Spring 2). In comparison, the whole cohort had an average of 1.3 sub-levels over the same time frame. This shows that this intervention was successful.