

Pupil Premium Parent Report

(Sep 2021-Aug 2022 and projection for Sep 2022-Aug 2023)

Overview of the school

Total number of students on roll in Years 7-13 = 1090. Total number of students on roll in Years 7-11 = 821.

Total number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium Grant last year (2021-2022) = 67 students in Years 7 to 11 (i.e. 8.34%)

Total number of pupils currently eligible for Pupil Premium Grant (2022-2023) = 67 students in Years 7 to 11 (i.e. 8.16%)

Total amount of Pupil Premium Grant projected for year 2022-23 = £57,435 (compared with £65,485 in 2021-22)

Nature of Pupil Premium support 2021/2022

We continued to fund the system of tracking and intervention developed to support disadvantaged students. This has been enhanced to include regular, methodical checks on patterns of attendance using FFT Aspire's Attendance Tracker as this was previously identified as a root cause of a gap in progress between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. We employed the services of an Attendance officer to support pastoral leaders in this.

Individual bursaries were awarded to provide access to uniform, equipment and specific learning opportunities offered outside the common curriculum and to support engagement in extra-curricular clubs and events.

Having identified a specific gap in the maturation of metacognition and the development of effective revision strategies between disadvantaged students and their peers, the Teaching Development Group developed exam preparation masterclasses in revision strategies which were delivered across all subject areas to Year 10 students.

The Accelerated Reader Programme remained our primary strategic goal to tackle the vocabulary gap which disproportionately affects disadvantaged students. The intention was to leverage better access to all areas of the curriculum by developing the language that makes higher order conceptual understanding possible and reduces debilitating syntactic lacunae.

The Pupil Premium Champion lead a whole staff training session, feeding back his evidence of the relative engagement and progress of disadvantaged students and proposing strategies that would support disadvantaged students. He has also acted as an advisor to pastoral heads and senior managers.

Impact of Pupil Premium spending 2021/2022

Again, there was a gap between the outgoing Year 11 cohort and their disadvantaged peers in terms of both attainment and progress (the estimated average progress and attainment of disadvantaged students were half a grade lower). But this disproportionately reflected the performance of two students and was, therefore, not statistically significant. Across the rest of the school the progress in tackling the disadvantage gap is more encouraging: internal assessments of Year 7-10 students in 2021/22 showed a gap of only 0.03 of a grade. Analysis of students' performance on the Accelerated Reader Programme revealed that progress is being made among disadvantaged students but that an engagement gap persists.

Pupil Premium support strategy in 2022/2023

We will continue to target the literacy gap as the most effective way of addressing disadvantage from the moment students are first admitted to the school by investing in Accelerated Reader. We will also continue to pursue our strategy of targeting high levels of attendance with the support of the Attendance Officer. Good communication with the parents/carers of disadvantaged students is of paramount importance and there will be more focus on this in terms of development priorities and resources (e.g. tracking parents' evening appointments). Tracking the progress of disadvantaged students to identify where additional support, academic or pastoral, is needed remains a priority. We have extended the reach of the dedicated champion of disadvantaged students by incorporating this role within seven new posts: Deputy Heads of House have particular responsibility for monitoring disadvantaged students in their House and making discreet interventions with appropriate staff as part of their job description. There is also a newly appointed Learning Mentor who can be deployed to accelerate the progress of individual students. The emphasis will continue to be Quality First Teaching in the classroom, and the Teaching Development Group will consult and advise on further strategies, incorporating the findings of extended research projects by two teachers in this area. This strategy will be re-evaluated in Sep 2023.

If you would like to know more about Pupil Premium, please contact Mr A.Kosmaczewski (Deputy Head) at the school.