

Pupil Premium Parent Report

Sep 2022-Aug 2023 and projection for Sep 2023-Aug 2024

Overview of the school

Total number of students on roll in Years 7-13 = 1094. Total number of students on roll in Years 7-11 = 823.

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

Total number of pupils currently eligible for Pupil Premium Grant (2023-2024) = 66 students in Years 7 to 11 (i.e. 8.01%)

Total amount of Pupil Premium Grant projected for year 2023-24 = £56,072 (compared with £59,029.99 in 2022-23)

Nature of Pupil Premium support 2022/2023

We continued to fund the system of tracking and intervention developed to support disadvantaged students. This included 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 employ the services of an Attendance officer to support pastoral leads 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 & Learning Group delivered exam preparation masterclasses in revision strategies across all subject areas to Year 10 students. They extended this by developing cross-curricular metacognition masterclasses for all Year 7 students at the end of the Spring Term with the goal of equipping them with the learning tools required for success in their summer exams and beyond.

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.

We extended the reach of the dedicated champion of disadvantaged students by incorporating this role within six 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. They follow a 'Monitor-Plan-Do-Review' procedure. The emphasis continued to be Quality First Teaching in the classroom, and the Teaching & Learning Group met half-termly to consult and advise on further strategies.

Impact of Pupil Premium spending 2022/2023

Disadvantaged students (slightly larger cohort in last Y11) outperformed their peers. Their residual was 0.6. The gap between disadvantaged students and the rest of the cohort was + 0.25 in favour of the disadvantaged students. When the disadvantage gap grew, we put in place some powerful measures in terms of attendance, literacy, alongside pastoral support and curricular intervention, that have had time to work. It has been successful and we were close to eliminating the disadvantage gap last year; the gap did grow slightly again in the summer (particularly with Year 9s and Year 10s).

Pupil Premium support strategy in 2023/2024

Moving forward we plan to develop a robust, evidence-based 3-year strategic plan which will identify specific demographic and contextual barriers to learning for our disadvantaged students, as well potential obstacles within school. The Attendance Officer and pastoral team, particularly the DHOs will continue to support students and their families to engage fully in school life, through high attendance and punctuality, encouraging and supporting participation in extra-curricular opportunities. There will be a stronger emphasis on high impact Quality First teaching & learning strategies: focused CPD will be deployed to upskill all staff in tackling the disadvantaged gap. We plan to widen our understanding, vigilance and proactive support of disadvantage so measures are not limited to FSM eligibility for example. Emerging priorities will include an ongoing commitment to target the literacy gap through investment in The Accelerated Reader programme, and reinvigoration of our whole-school literacy strategy. Good communication with the parents/carers of disadvantaged students is of paramount importance and there will be greater focus on this in terms of development priorities and resources (e.g. monitoring parents' evening appointments). Tracking the progress of disadvantaged students, to identify where additional academic or pastoral support is needed, remains a priority. This 3-year strategic plan will be fully developed over the coming months and an annual review cycle of it will commence in Sept 2024.

If you would like to know more about Pupil Premium, please contact Mrs S Godfrey (Deputy Head) at the school.