

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Catch-Up Premium Plan

September 2020 – July 2021

We are using the universal catch-up funding (£73,120) to support all our pupils to enable them to catch up lost time following the school closures because of the COVID pandemic. This funding will be used for **specific activities**, in line with curriculum expectations for 2020-2021.

To make best use of the funding we shall refer to evidence-based approaches associated with the most effective catch-up strategies. We have flexibility about how we spend this additional funding and are mindful that:

- those pupils form the **most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds** have been adversely affected the most by COVID.
- each of our **carefully chosen strategies needs to demonstrate impact**. In other words, we need to know that the money has made a discernible difference.

We are using the catch-up funding to:

- **Identify** those pupils who need specific catch-up support, whilst continuing to adapt teaching and learning (both in school and via remote learning as appropriate) to ensure that all pupils make appropriate progress irrespective of their 'return to school starting point'.
- **Adapt** Schemes of Work to take account of the need for specific catch-up activities, supporting this through regular assessment, ensuring that knowledge and concepts are frequently revisited throughout the year.
- **Support** all pupils through securing excellent teaching, developmental assessment and a supportive system provided by Progress Leaders and Tutors.

We have carefully considered all the areas that will benefit from **additional funding** and these are:

1. Employment of a specific **Pastoral Mentor**
2. Additional hours → **access to Counsellor**
3. Subscription to **online revision/learning materials (SENECA/Bedrock)**
4. **Catch-up Literacy** in Years 7, 8 and 9
5. Enhanced **Careers provision**
6. **Additional computers/IT resources** for staff/pupils
7. Wider strategies linked to **health and wellbeing**
8. **Online assessment materials** to judge progress/impact
9. **Targeted academic support** (1:1/small group)
10. Appointment of a **seconded AHT** to coordinate all of the above

1. **Pastoral Mentor**

Our existing Pastoral Mentor (Paul Wallace) will be retiring in March 2021 and our soon to be appointed replacement will have a specific role in supporting pupils who need to accelerate their progress and catch up as quickly as possible. S/he will be working alongside them in/out of lessons and maintaining regular communication with parents.

2. **Access to Counsellor**

We will extend the employment of our existing professional counsellor so she can support more individuals. Each pupil will have been identified by Tutors/Progress Leaders/Parents if they are suffering from anxiety as a result of COVID lockdown. Our counsellor will provide support strategies within a supportive environment.

3. Online Revision/Learning Materials

We will extend and expand our subscription to online materials which will enable all our staff to deliver all elements of the planned curriculum. All pupils will have access to the premium version of SENECA Learning and Year 7 will have access to BEDROCK Learning.

4. Catch-up Literacy in Years 7, 8 and 9

We are concerned that a larger proportion of pupils have a reading age which is significantly below their chronological age. We will be investing/training additional staff to act as tutors in the 'thinking reading' scheme. This is a proven approach which accelerates reading ages. We shall buy additional reading/fiction books for every pupil in Years 7, 8 and 10 to encourage a love of reading and, hopefully, enhance vocabulary.

5. Enhanced Careers Provision

To motivate, encourage and guide more pupils, we shall employ our careers advisor for additional hours.

6. Additional Computers/IT resources

We shall provide additional computers/laptop for pupils to supplement the ones provided by the Government. We shall also purchase additional equipment (visualisers/screens/cameras) to enable teachers to deliver even better remote lessons.

7. Health and Wellbeing

Staff will be trained in new approaches associated with social and emotional learning. Activities and events will be frequently held throughout the term to bring fun and enjoyment into all aspects of school life. We may employ the services of creative, health/welfare professionals who can make pupils/staff feel better.

8. Online Assessment Materials

We shall purchase diagnostic online assessments which will help us to identify starting points, gaps in knowledge and understanding, as well as progress made when subsequent tests are taken. All the relevant data will be provided to relevant staff to assist with lesson planning and intervention/targeted support.

9. Targeted Academic Support

Existing part time staff may be deployed to provide specific support in the core subjects to pupils who have been identified as having fallen behind. Tutors may be used to provide 1:1 support to help identified pupils to 'catch up'.

10. Temporary Assistant Headteacher

This new Senior Leader will have the capacity and responsibility to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate every aspect of our COVID Catch-Up Premium Plan. S/he will be accountable for the successful delivery of all the above strategies.