

Key Stage 3 Catch Up Funding

Impact Statement

2019 – 20

What is the Year 7 Catch Up Grant?

The Department for Education provides additional funding to secondary schools for those students who join in Year 7 not having achieved at least expected progress in Reading and/or Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2). This money is allocated by schools to provide interventions which will help those students catch up in English and Maths with their peers.

In 2019-20 the grant received to Wildern School totalled £27761

At Wildern we strive to ensure that all students make the best possible progress that they can. To support this progress and to rapidly close any existing gaps for Key Stage 3 we have deployed a range of strategies:

Year 6 English and Maths Transition

We have an excellent cohesive working relationship with our primary feeder schools and therefore we endeavour to begin the transition for our students as soon as we can. In Year 6 students are invited to work with a range of staff for an extended period of time outside of our standard transition offer. This allows the students to build relationships with the core department areas in the summer of year 6 and also enables the teachers to begin delivering intervention material to maintain progress and attempt to avoid a dip in learning over the summer holiday.

To underpin the experience, a parental evening is conducted for parents to attend a workshop and discuss how they can support their child's learning at home. There is a range of staff available on the evening to support any queries that parents may have. The assistant headteacher for KS3, Literacy coordinator and members of the English and Maths teams all deliver information and offer advice. This is always well attended and helps to bridge the journey for primary to secondary for the parents as well as the students. Due to the national lockdown restriction this did not take place however students and parents have been provided with virtual support and advice for English and Maths with material also available on the school website.

Core Progress Assistants

Core Progress Assistants have been employed in English and Maths to support catch up students during curriculum time. The specialist progress assistants work in close collaboration with the classroom teacher to support and promote the progress of the students identified as below the expected standard.

In both English and Maths the Core Progress Assistants organise and implement targeted interventions for students at Key Stage 3 who are at risk of not making expected progress.

In English, 'Beyond the Book' focuses on key reading skills over a series of tutor time sessions to enhance the student's capacity to access more challenging reading material and to support the development of inference and comprehension skills.

In Maths, a range of interventions take place to support the understanding of key numeracy skills. These sessions run for the entire academic year and are devised to ensure that the student have the appropriate foundations for maths learning at GCSE. A parental workshop is also delivered to support the learning at home. These sessions were running right up until the national lockdown with initial data showing positive progress.

The Apollo Group

In Year 7, some students are members of the Apollo group and have additional time to develop their literacy. This means that they spend less time in Humanities and Language lessons. For some students, the programme continues into Year 8. The students are taught by a specialist literacy teacher who is also the school SENCo. The teacher is supported by teaching assistants who are directed to work with specific students and may at times withdraw students to deliver precise one to one literacy sessions. This group was supported throughout lockdown and appropriate support material and work to enable progress was provided to all students through the period of time away from school. All of the students also received phone calls during the lockdown period to ensure their wellbeing and academic progress was maintained.

Catch Up Interventions

In addition to high quality teaching within the classroom and units of study specifically designed in collaboration with primary colleagues to support closing any potential gaps from KS2; intervention programmes are delivered by specialist English and Maths teachers to target individual students with identified areas for development.

In Maths, students complete a series of 10 sessions whilst being withdrawn from lessons. (Once a week.) These sessions focus on key skills identified from the KS2 results, baseline testing and WAD (Wildern Assessment Data.) Classroom teachers are also informed of the progress to ensure that the sessions are reinforced by what is being delivered in the unit of study.

As a result of these interventions, combined with high quality teaching and learning, these students demonstrated they were on target to secure good progress at KS3 before the national lockdown interrupted the interventions.