



Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Funding 2018-19

The catch up funding is given to schools for students who enter Year 7 with low attainment in numeracy and / or literacy. In 2018-19 we received £11,735. The funding supports a range of targeted systems to help students make progress and 'catch up' with their peers during the year.

The following strategies were used to support students with low attainment in literacy and numeracy:

- Year 7 students are grouped according to ability in maths, with lower sets having fewer students which means a greater staff to student ratio. The curriculum is therefore adapted to help these students make progress and 'catch up' with their peers. These groups are also supported by at least one TA to ensure all students are supported.
- In English students are taught two literacy units throughout the year which develops skills in reading and writing. The teaching is tailored to the needs of the students, helping those with weaker levels of literacy 'catch up'.
- Targeted students in Year 7 receive numeracy support using the Ninja programme which covers skills such as number bonds, multiples, clock faces and fractions. Students made progress in the units and moved through the levels with 7 scoring 30/30 at the end and the majority scoring between 23 and 25 marks. This was an improvement from the 7 to 13 marks scored before the intervention. Students enjoyed the sessions and felt more confident after.
- Targeted Year 7 students received literacy support from HLTAs during tutor time including the online Spellzone program. The work is targeted at the needs of students in the group. 35 students participated in spellzone sessions. Of these, 26 made good progress in their spelling skills when retested, all students made good progress through the spelling units and all 35 felt that it had helped them tackle words with more confidence.
- 3 year 7 students took part in a highly personalised language builders course with a HLTA who worked with them to learn and use subject specific vocabulary through pre-teaching and overlearning to aid access to the curriculum.
- All students in Year 7 were bought a book through the Buzz Books reading programme. Students are expected to read and work on group activities during tutor time. A focus on reading skills and the value of reading helps students to develop good habits in reading. Many students reported that this was the first book they had read on their own / owned. This helped to increase an interest in reading and confidence in reading for pleasure.

- A small number of students have nurture provision in which they do literacy and numeracy activities linked to the real world to help develop confidence in these skills. Evidence from the students' Boxhall profiles show that these interventions have helped them to develop literacy and numeracy skills that have helped them feel more confident.
- Targeted students received a reciprocal reading programme delivered by TAs during Tutor time to help build their reading comprehension skills. 36 students were given this intervention in small groups and 28 of them improved their comprehension score on retesting. All students reported feeling more confident to tackle reading age appropriate fiction texts.
- Students in Year 7 who enter below expectations and who do not make progress in the first term were referred to the English and maths one to one / small group tutors where they work through a specific program tailored to their needs / the needs of the group. Once students have met targets set by their teachers, such as increasing confidence in reading comprehension, the end the program.
- At the end of Year 7, one student in the target group was not making adequate progress in maths and 2 were not making adequate progress in English. 12 of the 37 students who entered with a KS2 grade below average are now meeting age related expectations in English and in maths 19 of the 24 students who entered with a KS2 grade below average are now meeting age related expectations.

This year we also aim to bring in the accelerated reader program for all Year 7 students to support and track reading. We have also introduced a reading lesson once a fortnight in English in Year 7 and 8 where students take part in a range of reading activities, including silent reading, to develop reading skills and help foster a reading culture in the school.

In maths the purchase of a number of maths resources to support maths mastery in Year 7 will support students with weak literacy and help bridge the gap from primary to secondary school.