

Thomas More Catholic School

Year 7 Catch-Up Funding

2020-2021

Catch-Up Funding had until this academic year been allocated by the Government for each Year 7 pupil who had not achieved 95 in English Reading and/or Maths at Key Stage 2 before they joined secondary school. Funding will now continue through the new National Funding Formula.

“The money is to be used by schools to deliver additional tuition or intensive support in small groups, giving pupils valuable support to bring them up to speed so that they are more likely to succeed at secondary school. The funding will not be ring-fenced for catch-up activities but we expect that this funding is used for additional literacy and numeracy catch-up during Year 7 given that this can make a critical difference to pupils at this important stage.” (DfE Website).

Due to the cancellation of KS2 testing in 2020 Thomas More Catholic School will now estimate the number of pupils that were likely to have scored under 95 if they had sat their KS2 tests in the final year of primary school.

The initial estimate for Maths is 23 pupils and for English it will be significantly higher. We intend to use CAT tests for the whole year group before November to more accurately determine the numbers.

How we spent the allocation of funds during 2019-20:

For 2019-20 we had 23 students who did not achieve the expected outcomes in either reading or maths at Key Stage 2. There were 18 pupils in the English Reading group and 13 in the Maths group, with 8 pupils being in both groups. Our funding was £8457.

The funding contributed to smaller class sizes in year 7 for both Maths and English lessons, of around 22 pupils.

The English Department had begun a two-year literacy intervention program, supporting pupils in groups of 8, of their 18 catch-up students. There was also a tutor-time reading program, with a trainee teacher, that ran three times a week for those additional children that are also identified as weak in English.

There were also additional assessments using Lucid software and SMART individual targets produced for each child.

The Maths department provided a weekly 1-2-1 numeracy support program during tutor time using A-Level Maths students. The catch-up pupils were also given exclusive access to a maths website that provided essential KS2 numeracy support from home, and during tutor time. During the lockdown period the parents of the 13 maths pupils were regularly contacted to encourage participation.

Impact

Due to the impact of the Covid-19 we were unable to run assessments at the end of the academic year for year 7 but we will be monitoring the progress into year 8 of the catch-up pupils and intervening where appropriate.

How we support those pupils not yet secondary school ready this year

Again Maths classes will be kept small and the catch-up pupils will be given exclusive access to a maths website that provides essential KS2 numeracy support from home. This year small groups, of up to 4 pupils, will be given two hours per fortnight of maths intervention by experienced maths teachers during the school day. Additional 1-2-1 support from a math teacher will take place during tutor time most mornings.

Year 7 English classes will also be kept small. The lessons will be differentiated with an emphasis on supporting the catch-up pupils. There will be increased use of academic glossaries (for each half-term) and identification of key words for each lesson.

Lessons will see the introduction of a new Year 7 text (*The Boy at the Back of the Class*) which is more accessible than some more traditional texts.

Students of particular concern will have the opportunity for catch-up lessons with SEN support (during English lessons tbc) pending identification of weaknesses through Lucid reading tests and teacher observations over course of September/October.

Contact us:

We are monitoring progress continually through the year to ensure the intervention is timely and relevant to each individual. If you have any questions or would like some advice please do not hesitate to contact us by email:

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