

Pupil Premium strategy 2016-17

2016-17 Pupil Premium allocation:

£341,305 (plus year 7 Catch Up funding subject to confirmation)

Summary of the main barriers to educational achievement faced by eligible pupils at the school:

There are a number of issues facing both students and the school:

- Allocating Pupil Premium spend can be problematic. It is difficult to balance funds between identified FSM students and other equally disadvantaged students, especially as the school historically has a high number of FSM students on roll (Students eligible at any time over the past 6 years figure currently standing at 66%)
- There are many complexities surrounding the different types of children eligible for the Pupil Premium. The issues one eligible child faces will differ significantly from another eligible child
- Attendance – Nationally, children eligible for the Pupil Premium are less likely than their peers to attend school regularly. It is therefore imperative to address attendance issues and challenge parent/carer attitudes towards the importance of ensuring their child attends school every day. There are procedures in place to robustly challenge parents/carers of persistent absentees and to highlight the support we offer to address on-going attendance issues and the resultant effect on student results
- Student progress and achievement – nationally FSM students achieve significantly lower results than non FSM students at GCSE. Significant work is undertaken to ensure that the attainment gap at AMSI is kept to a minimum

How is the grant spent and why?

Key strategies are:

LITERACY INTERVENTION Small group and individual literacy intervention sessions are provided by the RWC Faculty (Reading, Writing and Communication) across all years to those students in need. Students often arrive at the school with below average reading ability and sessions of this type are critical to bring them up to expected reading age. Currently approximately 160 students are being targeted across KS3 of which approximately 2/3 are eligible for the pupil premium.

REVISION CLASSES Revision classes take place during half terms, Easter Holidays and Saturdays. Attendance is very high and closely managed, with students being called at home if they are late, to ensure that they attend and texts sent to parents prior to the sessions. These extra-curricular sessions are widely acknowledged as a proven method of improving overall results.

SUMMER SCHOOL We offer a Year 6 into 7 Summer school free of charge to FSM students. This aids students' transition into the secondary school system.

MATHS BOOSTER CLASSES Targeted students receive additional support in after school sessions in Years 7 – 9. This ensures that we facilitate all children making positive progress and as a result raise attainment.

MENTORING The School runs weekly after school AIM (Achievement, Inspiration, Mentoring) sessions every Monday which are targeted at students who require additional assistance to progress successfully through to Key Stage 5.

ATTAINMENT: All students are expected and encouraged to attend AIM Sessions which occur after school every day for an hour as a means of enhancing the academic curriculum with extended support from teachers in all subjects.

LIBRARY We employ an experienced school librarian. The success of this initiative can be measured by the increased use of the library at lunchtimes, when it is usually full; the high uptake of Key Stage 4 students completing homework, independent learning in the library daily after school and an increase in the number of books borrowed by students.

STUDY GUIDES Study guides are provided at a subsidised rate to students at a cost cheaper than the High Street.

DEPRIVED PUPIL FUND This fund is available, by application, to parents who are experiencing extreme hardship. Examples of how this is used are the provision of School Uniform or PE Kit, trainers or sports equipment.

UPPER SCHOOL FUND We have an upper school fund in place to assist with FSM and disadvantaged students requirements.

ADMIN We employ an additional 2 members of staff in the Admin Department to take away admin responsibilities from teaching staff to enable them to concentrate on teaching and learning. One is dedicated to the Pupil Support/SEND faculty.

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES: EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND VISITS (INCLUDING RESIDENTIALS) All visits and trips are subsidised for students that are eligible for Free School Meals. This enables students from poorer backgrounds to gain access to opportunities that they likely would normally be unable to afford. Subsidies are worked out on an individual trip by trip basis.

INTO UNIVERSITY We are in partnership with Into University, a charitable organisation which targets deprived pupils from a very early age to aim to ensure they receive the same opportunities as those from better off families. Students attend special IU sessions from year 7 onwards.

ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

♣ The provision of a specialist teacher of literacy, who delivers individual, small group and whole class lessons to consolidate reading and writing skills.

♣ In Year 7, all students have weekly 1 hour dedicated curriculum time taught by the RWC faculty to improve their reading, writing and communication skills

♣ Raising the reading age across the school. The Accelerated Reading programme supports identified weaker readers in Year 9 to reach their chronological reading age. This includes staff training and the purchase of additional resources to deliver this comprehensive programme.

♣ ECDL ICT qualification is studied as part of our support pathway in Years 10 and 11. Its vocational structure is best suited to balance the curriculum for targeted students.

♣ Lunch Club for Year 7 students who lack confidence and need assistance with transition from primary.

♣ A number of initiatives to boost numeracy are funded through Year 7 Catch Up funding such as: Count On Us challenge, TT Rock Stars, UKMT, Booster sessions using MyMaths.

The information above is not exhaustive but gives an indication of the value we secure from pupil premium funding to ensure the attainment of eligible pupils is in line with their peers.

How the impact of the pupil premium is measured:

Current progress figures show that in 2016, AMSI students who received this funding achieved the same average grade (C grade) as students who didn't. Our in school achievement gap is just 3.8%, based on the difference between FSM and non FSM students making 3 levels of progress in English and Maths combined. We continue to strive to close that gap completely. [Refer to the Ofsted Data Dashboard for Arts and Media school for further information.](#)

The high number of students in the school who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding correctly identifies the demographic nature of the community that we serve. It is not envisaged that this money follows individual students but is used to raise achievement and remedy disadvantage throughout the school.

Date of next review of the Pupil Premium strategy:

Sept 2017

2015-16 Pupil Premium allocation: £351,500 (plus £13,500 Year 7 catch Up funding)

How it was spent and impact

The current strategies were also employed in the 2015-16 financial period.