

Catch Up Premium

The use of Catch-up Premium – statutory statement covering catch-up premium during 2020-2021 and plans for 2021-2022

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Catch-up Premium 2020-21 (announced June 2020)

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium, announced in June 2020, replaced the old Year 7 Catch-up Premium for literacy and numeracy.

The DfE Gov.uk website 'Catch-up premium' states, 'In June 2020 the government announced £1billion of funding to support children to catch up on missed learning caused by coronavirus. Academies receive £80 per pupil up to Year 11 in 3 tranches: Autumn 2020, early 2021, Summer term 2021.

It further states that, 'While schools can use their funding in a way that suits their cohort and circumstances, they are expected to use the funding for specific activities which will help pupils catch up on missed learning. Schools should particularly focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils as we know they have been most affected.'

In addition, 'If your school gets the coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium grant in academic year 2020-2021, you should publish details of:

- How it is intended that the grant will be spent
- How the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school will be assessed.

For 2020-21, Blackminster was allocated these amounts of Covid catch-up premium: £19,892

It was used to help fund:

- A Maths tutor involved in catch-up intervention for Years 6, 7 and 8
- An English tutor involved in catch-up intervention for Pupil Premium students in Years 6, 7 and 8
- A school counsellor to support the students' mental health following the pandemic
 - Purchasing new schemes of work in DT and Geography
 - Updating text books in all year groups
 - Purchasing workbooks for pupils with gaps in knowledge in the core subjects
 - Purchasing new library books to foster the love of reading
 - Purchasing online subscriptions to support home learning

Maths

A full-time tutor was employed specifically for Covid catch-up intervention. This intervention with students occurred during the school day.

Assessment data reveals that students who received catch-up tutoring made accelerated progress from their previous assessment point. This suggests that the small group intervention model was effective.

English Department

An English tutor was involved in Covid catch-up intervention for Pupil premium students in Years 6, 7 and 8.

An extra 12 hours of English was provided for each Pupil premium student per half term. Pupil Premium students were prioritised due to national evidence that learning gaps opened most for disadvantaged students.

Students had small group one-hour catch-up lessons on form and structure (vocabulary, purpose, form, tone, paragraphing, language devices and content), and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Counsellor

It became evident that we had an increase in the number of pupils who needed support with their mental health. These were initially selected from staff observations but parents also began to request support for their children. We had previously used Mentor Link but decided to employ a professionally qualified independent school counsellor for one morning a week. She worked individually with 6 students per morning for half termly blocks of time. She has the expertise to decide which children needed more support. The success of her work is evident in the children's resilience following their time working with her.

In addition, a member of staff has been trained as the senior mental health lead and Covid Catch-Up Premium covered the cost of this training.

Online resources

We have purchased Nessy to support students with identified spelling issues and Sumdog for the whole school to engage in maths competition while in lockdown.

Teaching resources

Heads of departments have selected new textbooks and some schemes of work to ensure the curriculum is relevant and engages pupils. This has assisted the school in the development of the new schemes of work which have been put in place.

The school has also bought a selection of new library books, especially non-fiction, to engage pupils in reading. There was evidence that many students did not read during the lockdowns as their assessment grades showed a lack of progress.

Plans for 2021-2022

The intention is to spend Catch-up premium on the continued employment of a maths tutor, an English tutor for PP students and to increase the hours for the school counsellor from half a day a week to a full day.

We will also update our scheme of work for Geography to include kerboodle package.

KS2 students will have further workbooks to plug the gaps from lockdown to ensure they are KS3 ready.