



Pupil Premium Review

Academic Year 2020 - 2021

What is Pupil Premium funding?

The Pupil Premium is a sum of money that schools receive from the Government for each student who is classified as disadvantaged. The criteria for disadvantaged is if a student is either in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) or who has been in receipt of them for any length of time during the last six years – this is known as Ever Six. Schools also receive money for students who are Looked After, adopted or whose parents are serving in the Armed Forces.

Nationally, the statistics show that disadvantaged students do less well than their peers in external exams. The recent enforced school closures due to two lengthy lockdowns have considerably widened this attainment gap. The aim of this money is to try to narrow and ultimately close that attainment gap. The money is to be used to support these students through a tiered approach to interventions.

HFUTC has been allocated £... of pupil premium funding for the academic year 2021 - 2022. The pupil premium value is allocated based on the number of students who are 'disadvantaged (as classified above). At the January 2021 Census, this was... students in total.

What are the main barriers to learning at HFUTC?

- Low attendance for disadvantaged students.
- External commitments of these young people.
- Opportunities for enrichment activities and extra-curricular support including enrichment, trips and visits.
- Access to a wide range of educational resources, including revision materials and appropriate ICT facilities at home.
- Poor literacy skills on entry to the school
- Parental engagement with school.

What have we used the funding for?

During the academic year 2020 - 2021 HFUTC was allocated £86,000 and this pupil premium funding was allocated to provide:

- Learning support assistants have been allocated to provide one-to-one and targeted small group intervention for students in all subject areas.

- To provide financial support for extra-curricular activities to ensure eligible students can access their learning in alternative ways to the classroom. An example of this was a trip at the end of the academic year to London. Many of the students had never travelled outside of the West Midlands. This trip formed part of our cultural enrichment week in which the cultural capital of the students was enhanced.
- Purchase resources and equipment where necessary to remove barriers to learning. Revision guides for all subjects were purchased or produced on site at no cost to the students. Pencil cases with a full supply of necessary equipment for learning were provided for all PP students. Additional learning resources were also purchased on an individual basis e.g. scientific calculator.
- Coaching and Mentoring – Pupil Premium funding contributes to the funding of the head of key stage 4 and learning support assistants (LSA's) to provide coaching and mentoring for vulnerable students to ensure they are supported both academically and emotionally.
- A dedicated attendance officer to work with students with poor attendance and persistent non-attenders. A particular focus on working with the parents of these students was employed to ensure a holistic approach to improving attendance. Funding for this allowed for some intensive work to be done with parents and students who were reluctant to engage with school due to Covid19 fears.
- Sandwell Inclusion support advisors have been employed to support in staff training to address specific barriers that our PP students experience, in particular poor literacy and social, emotional and mental health. The team also work one to one with students where identified.

What has been the impact of this funding?

Covid 19 Impact:

The enforced lockdown measures that took effect on 5th January resulted in some PP interventions coming to an abrupt halt and so the true impact of these interventions are difficult to evaluate for their effectiveness. What this review can do is reflect on the support that our PP funding provided to ensure that distance learning was fully supported for our disadvantaged students.

Resources:

All disadvantaged students were provided with all the necessary resources to be able to fully engage with distance learning. These resources included: exercise books, text books, revision guides and stationary. We ascertained that all PP students had access to some form of an electronic device so that they were able to access their emails. All lessons were delivered via email or Teams that all PP students could access their full curriculum.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing:

Our pastoral team were tasked with contacting all of our disadvantaged students on a daily basis to ensure they were safe and well. This resulted in ensuring that our disadvantaged students had a point of contact in addition to their subject teachers. In previous discussions with disadvantaged students one finding was that they appreciated having a key person who they could rely on in school, so our pastoral team provided that level of support.

Learning Support Assistants:

Our learning support assistants, along with our cover supervisor, provided additional learning support to our disadvantaged students throughout the whole of the lockdown period. The LSA team worked on a rota to provide support in school for those PP students in the building and remotely for those engaging from home. On their return to school the teachers and LSA's were able to work together in order to identify the gaps that the students had. This will enable more effective planning for the next academic year for how best to allocate PP funding to further narrow the gap.

Funding 2021-2022

The funding allocated for 2021 - 2022 will continue to support students in similar ways as identified above to ensure all the students receive outstanding teaching, care, guidance, and support. Due to the impact of school closures and enforced lockdown measures the coming academic year will have a primary focus on addressing the impact of the education gap experienced by disadvantaged young people. The allocation of PP funding will be dictated by

the needs of both staff and students. Additional or amended allocation of the funding will be outlined in the 2021 – 2022 pupil premium plan.