

## **Pupil Premium Report 2020-21**

The school receives pupil premium funding for students on a lagged basis i.e. for students who received Free School Meals at some point in the last six years in the previous year. The funding therefore applies to students in the current Years 8-12. The funding is allocated to any expenditure which the school feels will support the needs of our students.

The Pupil Premium Cohort is relatively small (47 students in year 7-13). 70% of these students received Free School Meals in the academic year 2019-20 which indicates that their families continue to live on a very low income. 12.7% of these students speak English as an Additional Language. 4.2% of these students were identified as having a Special Educational Need. Attendance of this cohort between September and the end of March 2020 was broadly in line with the Non-Pupil Premium cohort. The average attendance of Pupil Premium students was 94.6% against an average of 95.6% in the Non-Pupil Premium Cohort. From 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 parents were asked to report non-attendance while working remotely, as students were not physically attending school but we cannot rely on the accuracy of this data.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this academic year has been significantly disrupted and the need for different support for our Pupil Premium students has arisen. Students claiming Free School Meals were supported throughout lockdown and the summer break with food vouchers, initially covered by the school and then via the Edenred scheme. In addition to the FMS students, the school also supported another 14 students identified by the school as in need, in this way. Pupil Premium and other financially disadvantaged students were also supported via the purchase of dongles and loan of school laptops to enable students to access online learning. Four students in Year 10 received laptops from the government scheme to support disadvantaged learners.

### **The Barriers to Learning Faced by Pupil Premium Students**

In describing the barriers to learning for this cohort it is important to remember that not all barriers apply to all of the students in the cohort, some will apply to a single student, others to a significant number within the group. In attempting to meet the needs of this group of students it has therefore been important to adopt personalised bespoke support rather than adopting a one size fits all methodology.

The barriers to learning that these students encounter include:

- poorer health than non-PP students, resulting in poorer attendance and gaps in learning.
- poorer communication, reading and comprehension skills (although all are functionally literate) because English is not the main language spoken at home and there is a lack of shared cultural references.
- complex home circumstances which make it difficult for the student to study independently at home and hard for parents to support their child's learning.
- complex home circumstances e.g. carer responsibilities which make it difficult for the student to focus on learning in school.
- reduced access to books and resources (including online resources) because of a lack of equipment and access to the internet.
- difficulties in accessing remote learning provision due to lack of resources or inadequate, out dated devices.

In 2019-20 Rugby High School received £40,372 of pupil premium funding. Pupil Premium funding was spent as follows:

Area	£
Tuition and learning support to PP students falling behind in core subjects	18,000
Pastoral interventions including mentoring and counselling to support PP students	17,032
Transport bursaries to support PP students living in the school's catchment but beyond the 6 mile limit that entitles them to free transport and support for other items such internet dongle contract, laptop, meals not covered by FSM, support with the cost of uniform, revision guides, and financial support to enable students to participate in educational trips and visits.	5,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,372</b>

Sixth Form Bursary funding was £9570, of which £5900 was claimed by students. The school has been allocated £11,962 for bursary funding for the academic year 2020-21. Sixth formers starting at RHS in September 2020 have been made aware of this bursary so that more students can benefit, as early as possible.

### **Attainment and Progress**

The school has an admissions policy that gives a priority to Pupil Premium students and admits them with a lower score than other students. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no students have taken any formal assessment. However, monitoring of students' engagement with remote learning during our school closure revealed that Pupil Premium students were the group of students who engaged the least with remote learning with 46.6% of the 33 Pupil Premium students in years 7 to 10 appearing regularly on the staff monitoring sheet, as students who had not engaged or submitted work in more than 4 different subjects, in every three-week cycle.

Students were awarded Centre Assessed Grades this summer and students within the Pupil Premium cohort performed well with an average points score of 7.02 against an average of 7.64 for the whole cohort. There were 11 PP students in the Year 11 cohort and 7 of whom achieved an average of grades 7 or above. Of the 4 students who achieved lower grades, students had experienced challenges outside of school which had impacted on attendance and mental health and well-being throughout KS4. Students had been fully supported by the school in efforts to improve attendance, counselling and other pastoral support.

This pattern is similar to patterns observed in previous years but the disparity between students access to online resources to support learning has become much more evident this year and will mean that the school needs to continue to invest PP funding in supporting students learning remotely. Given students lack of engagement with remote learning over the Spring and Summer terms it is clear that funding will also need to be allocated to support mentoring and potentially extra tuition for students, particularly in KS4, so that they are successful at GCSE. Although there is a very small attainment and progress gap, it would be much bigger, without the interventions that we put in place to support Pupil Premium students.

### Future Plans

Our Pupil Premium income for the academic year 2020/2021 is £35,155. We plan to allocate and spend the income in the following areas:

Tuition and learning support to PP students falling behind in core subjects – continued development of the role of the learning mentors
Pastoral interventions including mentoring and counselling to support PP students - including targeted programmes to support attendance and mental health of our most vulnerable students
Providing financial support to enable students to participate in residential and educational trips and visits
Off-site Educational Support – including flexible learning where necessary
Transport bursaries to support PP students living in the school's catchment but beyond the 6 mile limit that entitles them to free transport and support for other items e.g. internet dongle, laptop, uniform,
Establishing a hardship fund for incidental costs for students and families who find themselves in financial distress

Following the success of the first 'Outgrown but not Outworn' uniform sale, the school will continue to support families by offering for sale low cost pre-worn uniform.