

Putting Our Year 7 Catch-Up Funding To Work

In 2017-18, Barr's Hill School received £21,895 Year 7 Catch Up Funding and it will receive £23,523 in 2018 - 19. Last year 39 students were eligible for the funding.

Over the last 12 months, targeted interventions in the form of: the Ruth Miskin Literacy phonics programme, the accelerated reader programme, reading buddies, associate teacher mentoring and small group reading, writing and numeracy improvement sessions have taken place. Much of this enhanced provision continues into Year 8. All of these strategies are proven to be amongst the most effective interventions when supporting students. Please follow this link to find out more: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/school-themes/literacy/>. The Education Endowment Foundation is an organisation dedicated to researching effective strategies for working with young people. This page lists the following strategies as being amongst the most effective (this is where our money is being spent):

| Strategy | How many more months progress does this strategy add (in a calendar year) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Reading Comprehension strategies | +5 |
| Oral Language Interventions | +5 |
| Phonics | +4 |

Staff at Barr's Hill have observed Year 5 & 6 literacy lessons and interventions, carried out work trawls and worked collaboratively with primary staff to develop knowledge of the primary curriculum as well as build on the strategies used to improve literacy and numeracy. An experienced primary practitioner has been employed as literacy leader and now works full time in The Bridge and so this expertise sits on site for both staff CPD and intervention delivery. Ofsted (Sept 2018) described the intervention for students not yet at ARE in The Bridge/Year 7 as 'exceptional'.

The impact of this intervention is clear with 61% of year 7s in receipt of catch up funding on track to reach ARE. The cohort of Year 7 catch up are projected to have a progress 8 score of +0.42. Many of these students were below level 3 at the start of their secondary career so this is a huge success. Of the remaining students, all of them made 1 level of progress or more, meaning their progress was in line with their peers.

In 2018-19 we will continue this work and plan to add significant capacity in The Bridge for the delivery and support of additional intervention.