

Catch up Review 2021

The development of teaching pedagogy has been at the core of our recovery strategy. This has meant a well-constructed and relevant CPD programme based upon the Walkthru book series which have been purchased for each member of staff. Whilst in lockdown, many staff completed online training courses, particularly those staff working with SEND students. Teaching staff have developed, in collaboration with other trust schools, a Knowledge Rich Curriculum. Combined with effective assessment and individual department strategies to fill gaps, we are monitoring the progress of the students. During lockdown, the school sent home paper based resources and text books to support the online learning. All students received 5 hours of on line lessons and a half hour PSHE session each day following their normal timetable. Attendance was on average 80%. The school continues to use Accelerated Reader to boost reading and data suggests this is having a positive effect.

To maximise learning time at KS4, the curriculum was redesigned to add one hour per fortnight to each option subject and an additional group was added to English and Maths groups in Years 10 and 11. Internal assessment indicates that there has been some impact with this strategy. Intervention sessions were provided for key core groups. A summer school was attended by approximately 80 students from Year 6 transitioning from primary school. We have also doubled the reading time in English to boost reading, progress is monitored through the Accelerated Reading programme. We have used the NTP programme for two students on line, but have found it difficult to source tutors and so not had the impact we had hoped for. The in-house Saturday morning tutoring service has been effective though, with Year 11 students being supported (about 20). Where possible, we have utilised the Cover Supervisor to support in lessons when not used for cover, although this has become less so when staff absence has increased during the pandemic.

On return from lockdown, all students were offered mental health support and we provided information to access other routes of support on the website. Equally, members of our pastoral and safeguarding teams received training on mental health, such as ELSE training. Equally our PSHE Aspire programme has been rewritten and also addresses mental health appropriately. Year 11 students were provided with diaries to help them organise themselves, whilst afterschool clubs and sports teams have been encouraged to help students engage and socialise. Careers guidance has also been improved and all students have access to a careers advisor. We have also used catch up money to buy more high interest and current books in the library to support literacy.