



Year 7 Catch Up Funding

2015/16

In 15/16 the Academy received £5000 to support 10 students in Year 7 who had not reached the expected level in English or Maths at the end of Key Stage 2. In 2015/16, the literacy levels of these students were particularly concerning, so we prioritised literacy improvement. We therefore spent our 2015/16 on the following:

1. The Accelerated Reader programme. This is an online quizzing service, used to test and re-test pupil knowledge and retention of the books they have read. As quizzing and self-quizzing has been shown to be one of the most effective ways of building long-term memory, we allocated two sessions of Accelerated Reader a week to Year 7, and one lesson a week to the rest of the school. The aim is to promote engagement with reading through addition of a competitive element, where students with the highest scores have their names displayed in the library, together with the number of words they have read.

Impact

1. The impact of Accelerated Reader has been instant. We have seen many of our weaker readers clambour to improve their position in the rankings. This was reflected by an average improvement in reading age at the beginning of Year 8.

Interventions planned for 16/17

Funding for 16/17 is expected to be the same as for 15/16 at £5000. With the success in Accelerated Reader of promoting improved literacy, we now need to shift our focus to improving numeracy. We therefore plan to spend the catch-up funding for 2016/17 on the Hegarty Maths programme, which uses videos to teach maths to pupils and then test their knowledge and skills. It will be used across the Year 7 cohort as the principal means of practising their maths at home.