

Catch Up Funding 2019 – 2020

Overview of the Funding

The year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium grant 2019 to 2020 is paid to schools under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002. Schools and academies may spend the grant for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school, they may also spend it on community facilities, for example services where the provision furthers any charitable purpose for the benefit of pupils at the school or their families, or people who live or work in the school's locality. Schools do not have to spend the full grant in the financial year beginning 1 April 2019; they may carry forward some or all of the grant to future financial years.

The amount is allocated to school on the basis that they receive the same overall amount of year 7 catch-up premium funding they received in 2018 to 2019, adjusted to reflect any change in the size of the cohort. The amount allocated to Astrea Academy Dearne in 2019 to 2020 was £23,715.

Existing Barriers to Learning

The year 7 literacy and numeracy catch up premium grant is used at Astrea Academy Dearne to fill gaps in students' knowledge of literacy and numeracy in year 7. It is important therefore to acknowledge these gaps to ensure that the funding is used most effectively for students to become 'secondary ready'. This means that students have a reading age required to become an independent reader and are numerically able to access the full curriculum offer.

Testing shows:

	Test undertaken	Number of students	Percentage of year group
Reading age below 10.4 (independent reading age)	National general reading Tests	80 (Sept) 64 (Jan)	34.3% (Sept) 27.5% (Jan)
Reading age of 5.0 (phonics training required)	National general reading Tests	11 (Sept) 0 (Jan)	4.7% (Sept) 9% (Jan)
Literacy at national standard (??)	SATS	GPS: 104.3 Reading: 104.22	
Numeracy at National standard (??)	SATS	104.97	

Overview of 2019 to 2020 spending plan

1) Lexonic / sound training

Lexonic is an award-winning company based in the North east of England, working with teachers globally to raise attainment through transformational programmes and training to supercharge literacy skills.

Based on decades of research and experience of phonology, literacy and dyslexia, Lexonic programmes give teachers and students the skills to make dramatic improvements in reading, spelling and vocabulary.

Evidence shows that participants in the programme gain an average of +27 months reading age in just 6 one-hour lessons.

2) Literacy tutor support

In order to best support literacy development, with those that need it the most, 1-1 and small group tutoring has proven benefit in accelerating knowledge acquisition. Extensive evidence from research undertaken by the Education Endowment Fund shows that 1-1 tuition in short (30 minute) sessions over a set period of time (6 to 12 weeks) has the impact of accelerating a child's education by +5 months.

3) Accelerated reader

Accelerated reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Students are helped to choose a book at their own level and read at their own pace. When finished, students take a short quiz to prove that they have understood their reading. This gives valuable feedback to the student and the teacher in order to help set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

The main benefit of accelerated reader is that, with as little as 20 minutes per day, a child's reading age can be increased at twice their chronological development.

4) Lexia: PowerUp Literacy

Lexia PowerUp Literacy is designed to help students in Years 7 and above become proficient readers, confident learners and GCSE-ready. PowerUp Literacy primarily targets Key Stage 3 pupils who lack the basic reading, academic vocabulary and the comprehension skills necessary to fully access and engage in the secondary curriculum.

5) Hegarty Maths

Hegarty maths is an online learning platform designed specifically to share high quality instructional maths videos with students in a targeted manner. Individually targeted work (videos and tests) are set quickly and automatically marked to give instant feedback to students. This allows teachers and students to spend more time identifying mistakes and misconceptions therefore improving feedback.

Impact

Strategy	Cost	Impact
Lexonic / sound training	£10,710 (-£3570 allocated from Pupil Premium Funding) = £7140	<p>A total of 42 students took part in the Lexonic program. On average, students accelerated their reading age by 2 years and 7 months in the space of 6 weeks' intervention.</p> <p>Of the students that completed the course, 26% made a gain of over 4 years, only 10% remained below the independent reading age of 10.4 years.</p> <p><i>Note: the number of students taking part was limited owing to the Covid 19 lockdown.</i></p>
Literacy tutor support	5 staff (varying salaries) at a total of 11 lessons per fortnight = £12,448.10	This initiative was used to deliver the Lexonic programme of intervention, therefore the impact is included in the above statement.
Accelerated reader	£12,514.50 paid over 32 months = £3128.63	All Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in Accelerated Reader last year. However, it is difficult to ascertain complete results because of the Covid 19 lockdown and the cyber-attack. Not all students received the second series of testing which would demonstrate a more accurate improvement in reading ages. However, students that had been tested, improved by 53 years across the whole of Year 7 with individuals improving by up to 3 years and 7 months and the average reading gain being 10 months.
Lexia PowerUp literacy	£1460 paid over 36 months = £486.67	Due to cyber-attack (the program is computed based) and Covid 19 this did not take place with meaningful effect.
Hegarty maths	£800	<p>January assessments show:</p> <p>32.4% moved up more than 2 attainment zones</p> <p>19.26% moved up 2 attainment zones</p> <p>22.13% moved up 1 attainment zone</p> <p>Note: 'Average' progress would result in attainment zones remaining the same, i.e. not up or down.</p>
Total	£24,003.40	

Evaluation and Continuation

The impact of a number of strategies used is sufficient to suggest that it is continued to be used in 2020 to 2021 using the year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium grant. These are: Lexonic (and the associated 1-1 / small group tutor support), accelerated reader and Hegarty maths. Though accelerated reader does not show impact, the license purchased can still be used in the short term. If no impact is still apparent, it will not be renewed. In addition, the Lexia programme that was unable to run should also be given chance using the 2020-2021 funding.

