

Impact of Pupil Premium 2014/2015

The narrowing of the attainment and progress gap of our Pupil Premium students was again a key focus for our whole school body last year. We are committed to providing the best outcomes for all of our students and teachers know that raising standards within this group is crucial for increasing their life chances.

We had a big push in Year 11 to support all students to improve their English and maths results, particularly those in who attract the Pupil Premium. Interventions included:

- Small group work in both subjects
- Mentoring and homework/coursework support through our Inclusion team
- Individual tuition

In other year groups there was similar academic support, particularly targeting those underachieving via our school Standards Strategy. In year 11 some students were chosen to do English IGCSE because we felt it gave them the best chance of gaining a C grade. Additionally, underachieving year 11 students were invited to attend bespoke after school sessions. We are increasingly targeting year 10 students – we know that early intervention is important to improved end results

In maths underachieving year 11 students completed a series of 4 small group sessions on a rotational basis.

We are increasingly targeting year 10 students – we know that early intervention is important to improved end results and Year 10 students have completed 2 rounds of small group sessions with the same criteria as Year 11.

This year we extended an individual mentoring scheme which we had previously trialed in year 7. At the start of the year every Pupil Premium student and their parents met with a member of staff (usually the Form Tutor) to discuss individual need and targets for the year. This was particularly successful in engaging parents and giving families a direct line of communication. Subsequent meetings and conversations were on a needs basis.

Another successful pilot that we extended to all year groups was the allocation of a personal budget of £100 which was used for the purchase of uniform, equipment and trips. For some families this budget made the difference between being able to participate and not. On average students spent about half of their allocation – a total of £6226.62.

Additionally, recognising the importance of extra-curricular opportunity we introduced 'The Tirabad Guarantee'. We guarantee that every Pupil Premium student will have one visit to our [Outdoor Education Centre](#) in Wales paid for in full. This trip which is offered annually to all year 7 students has proved very popular and has allowed many students access to an educational experience that would not have been within their family's means with 17 of the 27 Pupil Premium students taking up the offer.

Pupil Premium students have historically benefited from an early/multiple entry approach to GCSEs. Our data showed us that the improvement in attainment between first and second entry was significantly higher for Pupil Premium students than their peers. This year, for the first time, we used a slightly different approach to examination preparation. PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations) provided a more rigorous and realistic experience to all students. We hope that this new approach will benefit all students but especially our Pupil Premium cohort.

In order to close the gap we need our Pupil Premium students to be at school. Our Attendance Officer closely monitored attendance and intervened early which has led to an increase in attendance and a reduction in persistent absentees.

GCSE exam results showed that Pupil Premium students did better in 2014/15

	2016	2015	2014 (F)	2013
%5A*/C EM Non-Dis	80%	75% ↑	61%	86%
%5A*/C EM Dis	58%	50% ↑	26%	38%
Gap	-22%↓	-25% ↓↓	-45%↓	-48%

Attainment 8

	2016	2015
Non-dis		5.56 B-
Dis		4.75 C-
Gap		-0.9

GCSE exam results showed that Pupil Premium students are making good progress

79% of Pupil Premium students achieved expected levels of progress in English compared with 81% in 203/14 and 61% in 2012/13.

63% of Pupil Premium students achieved expected levels of progress in Maths compared with 52% in 203/14 and 42% in 2012/3.

GCSE exam results showed a narrowing of the gap between Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium students

	Gaps		
	2015	2014	2013
5 GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	29% ↓↓	45%	48%
Expected progress in English	4%↓	5%	28%
Expected progress in Maths	23%↓	25%	43%

KS3 results showed that Pupil Premium students made the similar progress to their non-Pupil Premium peers

The percentage of students who made expected progress in English is 88% (compared with 85%).

The percentage of students who made expected progress in Maths is 92% (compared with 94%).

Attendance of Pupil Premium students improved

PP attendance last year was 93.7%, an increase from 92.0% in 2013/14.

Only 3 of our Pupil Premium students was a persistent absentee (15% or more) compared with 7 in 2013/14.

Behaviour of Pupil Premium students continues to improve

No Pupil Premium student has been given a Fixed Term Exclusion in the past two years.

Alison Walker
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