

COVID-19 Catch Up premium 2020-2021: the Crossley Heath School

The DfE has allocated money to schools to spend on ensuring that Years 7-11 pupils have the chance to catch up and supporting schools to enable them to do so.

We have identified a number of areas where we felt we could use the funding to narrow gaps or improve our provision.

Student Wellbeing

We have used this funding to pay for extra 1-1 wellbeing sessions with our external provider Noah's Ark. We have booked in external speakers and PSHCE days run by external providers for when we return to school. We also purchased extra games and sports equipment for use on the moor and in the tennis courts at lunchtime.

Intervention

Some of the intervention sessions that we have put on since September include

- Small group intervention for Year 11 Geographers before mocks. The small group of students who struggled during remote learning will have the opportunity to have specialist support to help close the gap.
- Small group intervention for Year 11 Biology students. Focus would be on explaining difficult concepts and access to higher level exam questions.
- Small group tuition for Year 11 Mathematicians with a focus on problem solving and multi-step problems, wordy questions and questions requiring algebra to model them.
- Year 11 Food Technology Practical Mock Exams were done in twilight to ensure facilities were available and other departments were not impacted upon.
- Year 9 and 10 Art workshops for students to be able to access Art facilities after school in the absence of being able to use them in school time.
- Music composition and exam workshops after school.
- Delivery of some of the Further Maths level 2 qualification online after school for students not in top set.
- We identified a group of GCSE English students needing bespoke support and are currently delivering online twilight sessions to improve their writing skills.

Subject resources

We have used the catch up funding to purchase a wide range of resources across the subject areas. Some departments were significantly disadvantaged by the year groups being in bubbles as they can't teach certain groups within their specialist areas.

Some of the resources we have chosen are

- Geography skills and fieldwork textbooks for KS4. In the absence of school trips, more focus will be on exam questions on this without the opportunity to do actual fieldwork
- Revision and Practice books for DT, Engineering, French, German, Geography and Biology
- Styrofoam cutters for DT to reduce the impact of not having workshops available to Years 9 and 10

- Music composition software and portable keyboards to allow GCSE students to work remotely on the composition element
- Geography Educake online platform
- Working programmable circuits for all Year 9 and 10 engineers
- Quality colour printer for Art as they are now teaching in 7 different areas rather than one
- The Digital Theatre platform for Y9-11 English students
- Online Textbook access for History students
- Access to the Knowitall ninja platform for GCSE Computer Science students
- Materials to enable GCSE Textiles students to work from home effectively

IT resources

We purchased headsets with mics for the entire teaching staff to enable them to deliver live lessons with greater ease. We have also purchased a set of graphics tablets for many teachers to annotate powerpoints and to imitate a virtual whiteboard. In addition we have purchased some visualisers for staff in certain subjects. We have also increased the bandwidth of the school internet connection to cater for the increased demand of remote connections and online live lessons.

Assessment

We bought in CAT tests in the absence of Key Stage 2 data for the new Year 7. This is tried and tested benchmark data which will allow us to set targets and plan suitable intervention with confidence for the current Year 7.

Parents Evenings

Due to the pandemic, we haven't been able to invite Parents in to school as we normally would or to hold any Parents' Evenings. We invested in the Schoolcloud system in order to run Parents' Evenings virtually via video appointments. We have run the Year 11 and Year 10 Parents Evening appointments in this way and will schedule all Parents Evenings this academic year on this platform.