

The Glenwood Way: Year 7 Catch up Grant 2018/19

Introduction

This funding has been provided by the Government to ensure that all pupils who have not achieved the relevant targets by the end of Year 6 are given every opportunity to make progress in Year 7.

For the Academic year 2018 to 2019

The school has received £7500 Year 7 Catch up funding over the last year.

The grant has been used to fund the following;

- LSA working 1:1 and with small groups of learners on their reading skills
- Additional books for the current reading scheme
- Resources to support reading such as games, dictionaries and stationary
- Provide input and support from an independent specialist occupational therapist and the purchase of supporting resources
- Provide additional input from an independent speech and language therapist
- Provide an iPad for one learner so they can learn to express a choice and comment

Looking back – What was the impact of this expenditure?

- LSA working 1:1 and with small groups of learners on their reading skills

Records show all learners have made good or outstanding progress with their reading. They have made progress in their levels of comprehension, use of expression, knowledge of high frequency words, book knowledge and book handling. For example, one learner is now using different voices and recognises speech bubbles and speech marks. The LSA recorded, “Never fear, I am here.” X boomed in a big, deep voice and “Zooooooooooooom!!” Then laughter from X. Books are shared with home and parents have feedback they have been very encouraged by their child’s progress in reading. One parent was very excited that their child was finally reading as they had always hoped they could.

- Purchase of additional books for the current reading scheme:

The impact of purchasing additional books and enabled the books available within each level to increase. The LSA working teaching reading said, “Learners have enjoyed the range of books. It is exciting to see their progress and most of all their enjoyment of reading.” We have widened the range of books from the scheme we are currently using to challenge and extend reading. Books have been purchased to meet the needs of particular learner’s interests. This has brought a greater level of engagement and enjoyment of reading.

- Occupational Therapist Support and Resources:

The impact of this spend for the learners have shown that these resources have made a significant impact on their ability to concentrate and remain on task. For one learner, the impact of these resources have enabled him to be ‘ready’ to learn and to accept the adult’s support when they are teaching them. Staff acknowledge the impact that the therapist has on their own professional development.

The OT has seen 50 learners over the year. They have completed Sensory Diets, created Sensory Integration Programmes, provided advice and support to staff and parents/ carers. Feedback from staff has been very positive and from a survey received overall excellent scores in approachability and usefulness of advice. One teacher commented that, ‘The OT came into class, met and assessed the learners. She then demonstrated the exercise and took photos so a work system could be made to support the learner.’

- Speech and Language Therapist and Resources:

The purchase of iPads or PECS books for these learners have impacted by supporting them to better communicate, in the school environment, when learning in the community and with their families in the home setting. Learners are better able to make a request or to ask or answer a question. Staff acknowledge the impact that the therapist as on their own professional development.

Looking ahead to the 2019-20 academic year.

Next academic year we intend to spend the grant by:

- Continuing to fund an LSA focusing on reading with learners 1:1 and in small groups
- Purchasing software to use on the iPad, which works with the reading scheme
- Purchasing assessment resources, which support the reading scheme
- Developing a new strategy for reading to clarify and enrich the experience of each learner. We are widening the definition of reading at Glenwood
- Training for staff on Sensory Integration