

Summer Head Start Programme - Interim Report

All academies that teach year 10 and year 5 were asked to provide a two week programme for all pupils in these cohorts to ensure that they had an opportunity to re-engage with school, their learning, and to allow teachers to gain some insight into the level of learning loss they had experienced during school closure. This provision was fully funded by an emergency £70,000 allocation from the City of London Corporation.

The objectives of this initiative were to:

1. Re-engage learners, particularly disadvantaged pupils
2. Provide pastoral support and advice to address any trauma or anxiety that pupils had experienced, or were still experiencing due to the pandemic
3. Demonstrate to parents and students that our academies have taken all the necessary precautions to ensure they are safe places to learn
4. Reassert the importance of pupils being at school if they are to achieve academic success
5. Provide a tangible demonstration of the City of London's commitment to the communities our academies serve
6. Provide practical support for disadvantaged parents and families.

Offer

All students in year 10 and year 5 were offered the opportunity to attend the full two-week programme. Many schools surveyed parents and students and asked them to sign up in advance to help promote the programme and to address any concerns.

Each school provided a slightly different menu of activities, but all were asked to provide pastoral support geared towards re-engaging students and addressing any trauma or anxiety, as well as addressing any core gaps in English, mathematics and science. The provision is outlined for each school in the table overleaf.

Attendance

345 pupils and six sixth formers attended the provision for at least 90% of the sessions. This equates to approximately 41% of the invited eligible cohort. Of the Pupil Premium cohort, the attendance was slightly higher, with an average 42% of disadvantaged pupils attending 90%+ sessions.

Several factors could explain why attendance was not higher:

1. All holiday provision is voluntary
2. In August 2020, the level of anxiety around attending school was still very high with a range of mixed messages coming from the government
3. Many parents still had anxieties over whether the school would be able to manage large numbers of children safely

4. The secondary provision began on 10 August, at the start of the hottest two-week period of the year
5. Many families were taking holidays in the UK and abroad during this time.

Pupil Premium Attendance

It is pleasing to see that the percentage attendance of Pupil Premium students of 90%+ was higher than that of more advantaged students. Although this was not consistent across all schools, it does mean that the programme will have addressed some of the concerns about lack of engagement and learning loss of this group.

Interim Conclusions

The attendance standards we have measured the programme against are very high for a Summer School at 90%+, but we felt that the benefit of the programme would not be seen if pupils dipped in and out. While we would have liked to have seen better attendance, given the circumstances the programme was delivered in (providing 351 students with access to meaningful activities on a well-planned, two-week intensive programme, during a pandemic and Summer heatwave), it will have addressed a number of the objectives we set out to achieve. In particular, pupils were re-engaged, and their families were hugely appreciative of what was provided. Further data will be collected to provide a more thorough evaluation of the programme but it did effectively demonstrate to both parents and students that schools were committed to addressing gaps in learning and could operate safely and securely.

Further Data and Reporting

We are asking schools to provide data and assessment comparisons between this group and the average cohort figures at the end of the first half term, in terms of their Star tests (primary), Attainment 8 (secondary) and attendance (both) at school. We will then be able to fully evaluate the impact or otherwise of the programme in terms of engagement and learning gaps. We will ask for this data to be prepared and presented at the Trust examination scrutiny meeting on 4 November 2020 and subsequently shared with the Trust and Education Boards.

Mark Emmerson
September 2020

School	Dates	Core Curriculum Covered	Other activities	Attendance Strategies	Y 10 Roll	PP %	No. attending	Y10 Act 90% +	Act PP% 90%+	Y12 Tar	PP %	Y12 Act 90%+	Act PP % 90%+
Islington	Wb 10,17/08	Ma, Eng, Sci	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Personal and social educational and sports programme.	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	122	87	41	33	28	46	54	14	9
Highbury Grove	Wb 10,17/08	Ma, Eng, Sci	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Foundation subjects as well as personal and social educational and sports programme.	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	170	79	82	48	56				
Highgate Hill	Wb 10,17/08	Ma, Eng, Sci	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Personal and social educational and sports programme.	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	54	50	20	37	40				
Hackney	Wb 10,17/08	Ma, Eng, Sci	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Foundation subjects as well as personal and social educational and sports programme.	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	180	55	88	49	51				
Southwark	Wb 10,17/08	Ma, Eng, Sci	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Foundation subjects as well as personal and social educational and sports programme.	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	240	70	89	37	36				
School	Dates	Core Curr	Other acts	Attendance Strategies	Y5 Roll	PP %	No. attending	Y5 Act 90%+	Act PP % 90%+				
Redriff	Wb 20,27/07	Reading, writing, maths	Pastoral support, re-engagement with school and learning. Personal and social educational. Creative and outdoor activities	Letters home, parental survey sign up forms for students and parents. Staff calling to chase.	60	42	25	40	39				
Totals+ Averages							345	41	42				