

## Year 7 Catch-Up 2019-20

Year 7 cohort:

- 45 students did not meet the expected benchmark of 100 in Reading
- Of these, 10 students scored less than 95 in Reading
- 27 students did not meet the expected benchmark of 100 in Mathematics
- Of these, 4 students scored less than 95 in Mathematics

In September 2019 a meeting of the following members of staff was held to develop a plan for Year 7 Catch-up intervention in the coming academic year:

Maths teacher responsible for Catch-up

English teacher responsible for Catch-up

Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Manager

Head of Year 7

SENDCO

Leadership Link for Catch-up

A detailed list of strategies was developed. These were based on the appropriate needs of each individual student in the Catch-up cohort and included strategies and techniques that have proved to be successful in previous years. These strategies will be reviewed at the end of each term and revised as necessary.

### ***Planned Strategies:***

- All students in Year 7 have a one hour library lesson each week during which time they have access to the LRC and Accelerated Reader Programme. The reading ages of all students have been tested in September 2019 to provide us with further information on those needing additional support. All students will be tested again in January and July 2020, to check levels of progress.
- Students' reading ages have been shared with all members of staff, both on SIMS and Classcharts, so that teachers are aware of any students who may require differentiation with their tasks.
- Students in the year group needing the maximum level of support have been withdrawn from some lessons and instead receive 3 hours of additional literacy and numeracy support from specialist teachers each week. This is being regularly reviewed and changes to this group have already been made during October to ensure that those students most in need are targeted. Currently there are 13 students in this group and are supported in small group-work.
- 45 students who did not reach the required standard for Reading (and most for Grammar as well) will be monitored by the English department with additional in-class intervention provided by class teachers and the offer of an after-school Homework club, supported by our LSAs. The progress of these students will be regularly

monitored so that additional intervention can be provided, if required.

- All students in Year 7 have been assessed using the STAR Reading Tests. 4 students who did not meet the KS2 benchmark for reading have also been identified as requiring urgent intervention following on from their STAR Reading tests. 12 further students were identified as requiring intervention. All 16 of these students will be working with our LRC Manager once a week on a peer-led intervention programme. This is a successful strategy involving a group of our Year 10 students. Students in both year groups have responded extremely positively to this initiative and progress is being made.
- 10 additional students, who did not meet the expected benchmark on their Star Reading tests, will be monitored by the LRC Manager to determine any additional intervention required. These students will also be supported in their Reading lesson each week to ensure that they are making progress. They will be tested again at the end of the Spring term to assess any improvements in their Reading Ages.
- 4 students, who did not reach the required standard for Maths and 4 additional students who narrowly missed the expected score for Mathematics, will be receiving additional numeracy support in small groups working with a Maths teacher. These students will be also supported by Year 12 Mathematics students during their pastoral lessons on a weekly basis, as required.
- 4 students, who all achieved the expected score in Reading but narrowly missed it in Mathematics (scores of 98 or 99), will be monitored by the Maths department with additional in-class intervention provided by class teachers. The progress of these students will be regularly monitored so that additional intervention can be provided, if required.
- KS2 Question Level Analysis has been completed by the Maths and English departments and this information has been shared with class teachers to inform planning and individual target setting with students.
- Our dedicated SEND team support a large number of Year 7 students both in and out of lessons. In particular they run an after school homework club providing help and support to a wide range of students, including many of those who find it difficult to work independently at home and who need additional help with task completion.
- The Welfare Team also provide specialist support for a small number of our Year 7 students for whom external factors continue to affect their progress.
- Regular meetings are being held between LT, Head of Year, SENDCO, LRC Manager and Maths and English staff to discuss the progress of all the students in the Catch up cohort and students are able to join and leave the different intervention programmes according to their rate of progress.
- The progress of all students in the Catch-up groups will be closely monitored by the team, who will re-evaluate all of the strategies currently in place and extend the programme if it is felt that some students are not making sufficient progress in the relevant areas.

### ***January 2020 Update:***

- Students have responded extremely positively to both our literacy and numeracy intervention strategies.
- Teachers of those students taking part in numeracy intervention have noticed an improvement in basic mathematical skills and an increase in confidence.
- Numeracy intervention for all 8 students is still ongoing and will be teacher assessed in April.
- The 16 students, who are receiving 3 extra hours of literacy and numeracy support, have taken part in an extremely successful 3 month Enterprise project working with Auckland Castle; both their literacy and numeracy skills have vastly improved as a result.
- The 4 students, who required urgent intervention for reading, have all made huge gains in their reading ages - one girl has improved by 1 year and 9 months. However, their reading ages are still below expected, so intervention and monitoring will continue for these students.
- The 12 students, who required intervention for reading, have been retested and 9 of them no longer need additional support during Pastoral; instead they are being closely monitored during their reading lessons and working towards their targets set in Accelerated Reader. All of these students have made a gain in their reading age, some by as much as 2 years and 5 months.
- All students will continue to be monitored by the LRC Manager and appropriate targets will be set for reading.
- Communication with parents/carers is ongoing for these students. Parents have been extremely supportive and overwhelmed by their children's improvements in reading. They are also monitoring reading activity by using Home Connect on Accelerated Reader
- Staff involved will meet again in April and further discussions will take place to ensure student progress is maintained.
- All students will take the STAR Reading Test again in July to ensure expected standards have been reached.

### ***April 2020 Update:***

- In view of unprecedented times in all schools, with staff and students working from home, all staff involved have discussed alternative literacy and numeracy strategies to ensure that all students continue to make progress
- 44 students (one student has left St John's), who did not meet the expected score for reading, will have additional literacy tasks assigned to them on Sam Learning. The tasks will be dependent on their individual areas of weakness. Although some of these students have made progress, and are at benchmark according to their recent Star Reading tests, it was agreed that there could be some students who may regress without continued intervention. Tasks will be set and monitored weekly by an English teacher. Parents/carers will be informed of the importance of completing these tasks
- All students will continue to be monitored by the LRC Manager using the Accelerated Reader programme. Whilst students are learning remotely at this time, regular emails are being sent to all students reminding them of log in details for the programme and reminding them of

the importance of continuing to read.

- The 13 students, who were receiving the maximum level of support for reading and the 16 students who were involved in the peer led programme, will be closely monitored using Accelerated Reader. Parents/Carers will be contacted as and when necessary. Students have received suggested reading lists according to their ability and will receive additional reading tasks after the Easter break.
- The 8 students, who were receiving additional support for Numeracy will each have a limited number of tasks set for them each week on Sam Learning. The tasks will be increased each week, so as not to overwhelm students. This will be monitored by a Maths teacher on a weekly basis and levels of difficulty will be amended each week, according to progress. Information will be sent to parents/carers so that they are aware of these additional tasks and can offer support and encouragement, where necessary.
- Staff will review these new strategies and revise if necessary.
- Staff shared concerns that some students may regress due to time away from school. It was agreed that 1-1 support may be necessary in the Summer Term, if school has reopened.