

Year 7 Catch-Up Premium Evaluation 2015-2016



**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**

Overview

The Catch-Up Premium gives schools additional funding to support Year 7 pupils who did not achieve at least level 4 in reading and/or maths at the end of Key Stage 2.

Funding 2015-16

In the year 2015-16, the Academy received catch-up funding of £13,500. This is outlined below:

Number of students receiving catch-up premium for reading	13	£6,500
Number of students receiving catch-up premium for maths	14	£7,000

Context, Allocation and Impact 2015-6

In 2015-16 the amount of students attracting Catch-Up Premium funding was reduced significantly (by nearly 40%) from previous years. In 2014-5 the Academy received £21,500 and in 2013 £22,000. Therefore, in 2015-6 the Academy required a new plan to allocate this funding.

The way in which the Academy allocated this funding is outlined below, with the impact of each programme:

Focus	Intervention	Cost	Impact
Literacy	Accelerated Reader programme	£2,000	Students with targeted funding for reading improved their reading ages by an average of 10.6 months. This is double the progress which students of the same age and ability nationally make during this period. <i>"Pupils reading skills are developed well." (OFSTED, March 2016)</i>
Literacy and Numeracy	Specialist nurture group with additional staff support, resourcing, and curriculum provision, including reading group withdrawal	£7,500	Literacy - Students targeted for reading in this group improved their reading ages by an average of more than 8 months. This is double the progress which students of the same age and ability nationally make during this period. <i>"Pupils with a low reading age on entry... make rapid progress as a result of appropriate teaching, support and intervention."</i> (OFSTED, March 2016)

			<p>Numeracy - In formal Academy tests (Feb) students targeted for numeracy achieved, on average, more than two grades higher than on baseline tests conducted at the start of the academic year. This is the equivalent of 3.5 sub-levels of progress, where the amount expected nationally is 2 sub-levels.</p> <p><i>“...the mathematics ‘nurture group’ is helping less-able pupils to improve their fundamental mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding.”</i></p> <p><i>“The curriculum is imaginative [and] well balanced...”</i> (OFSTED, March 2016)</p>
Literacy and Numeracy	Reduced class size of set above nurture group with additional staff support and resourcing	£4,000	<p>Literacy - Students targeted for reading in this group have improved their reading ages by an average of 15 months. This is more than double the progress which students of the same age and ability nationally make during this period</p> <p>Numeracy - In formal Academy tests (Feb) students targeted for numeracy achieved, on average, more than a grade higher than on baseline tests conducted at the start of the academic year. This is the equivalent of 4 sub-levels of progress, where the amount expected nationally is 2 sub-levels</p> <p><i>“Pupils reading skills develop quickly as a result of effective teaching and focused intervention for pupils struggling to read.”</i> (OFSTED, March 2016)</p>

Overall Evaluation 2015-6

A summative statement

There were excellent outcomes for students who received catch-up funding. **In English, 12 out of 13 students (92%) in the Catch-Up cohort have made good progress** compared to 52% of lower ability students nationally, and 62% of other lower ability students at GSA. [The remaining student made massive strides in improving his reading age.] **In Maths, 11 out of 13 students (85%) of the Catch-Up cohort have made good progress** compared to 32% of lower ability students nationally, and 69% of other lower ability students at GSA. [The remaining two students nonetheless caught up to Level 4.]

The original plan set aside a small amount (3.7%) of the overall catch-up fund to support any behavioural and social support required, while also providing academic rewards for improvement and excellence. However, in practice it was hard to apply fairly. Therefore, the small amount set aside for this purpose was re-coded to support the costs of specialist and additional staff in the nurture groups to support literacy and numeracy as outlined in the original plan, taking this figure from £11,000 to £11,500.

Catch-Up Premium funding at the Academy was externally reviewed in June 2016. This review encompassed interviews with members of the Senior Leadership Team, the Principal and the Finance Officer. Several students were interviewed and a small number of books were scrutinised.