

Coronavirus Catch-Up Premium

Because of the exceptional challenges presented by the pandemic, HM Government has allocated funds to help education providers address areas where students may have fallen behind, where their knowledge and understanding of academic content needs strengthening or where their educational experience needs boosting or broadening following the recent periods of school closure. Further details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-up-premium-coronavirus-covid-19/catch-up-premium>.

In the case of BWS students, the vast majority engaged with online, remote learning well so we can be confident that most of our boys and girls are not facing significant ‘gaps’ in their learning; they may, however, need to consolidate the subject content that was covered during lockdown. In addition the subjects which have a practical component will need to ‘catch-up’ the skills-based elements of the courses that could not be delivered when learning was online. This applies across the entire age range – but of course the students in the sharpest focus will be those on examination courses in Years 10-13.

Our approach to using the resources provided by the Catch-Up Premium will be informed by the work of the Education Endowment Foundation, which has worked extensively with the DfE over recent months. Their report and recommendations can be found at https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Covid-19_support_guide_for_schools.pdf. The relevant strategies and approximate costs are as follows:

| Strategy | Relative cost | Relative impact | Approximate budget allocation |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Behaviour interventions – part cost of employment of pastoral support officers and administrative staff | Low | Moderate | £4,200 |
| Extended school time – part cost of supervision of homework club 16.00-17.00 Monday-Thursday | Moderate | Moderate | £5,600 |
| Individual instruction – part cost of employing tutors and remote learning kit for students who are absent long term | Very Low | Moderate | £1,250 |
| Mentoring – part cost of additional part-time staff to mentor students | Moderate | Low | £6,000 |
| Outdoor adventure learning – part cost of organising extra-curricular opportunities for students across the full age range | Low | Moderate | £16,800 |
| Social & emotional learning – part cost of counselling training for staff and employment of counsellor/ELSA assistant | Low | Moderate | £2,500 |
| Teaching assistant – part cost of employment | Moderate | Moderate | £5,750 |

Responsibility for ‘closing the gaps’ in specific subjects and any other necessary academic consolidation work is delegated to Heads of Academic Departments. Each department has conducted a detailed gap analysis across the full age range and has identified, on the basis of assessment and other evidence, where academic priorities lie.