

Thomas Telford School: Disadvantaged Students

July 2021

At Thomas Telford School our intention is to minimise all barriers that can affect the learning of students. Nationally, there is a widening gap between the achievements of Disadvantaged Students, and their peers who are not Disadvantaged. The Pupil Premium fund was introduced nationally in April 2011 to attempt to support schools in reducing this gap, but there has been no overall improvement to date, despite the allocation of well over £10 billion.

At present we have 120 students on roll for whom we receive Disadvantaged Student funding of in the region of £120,000. 28 of these students are in Year 7; 20 are in Year 8; 30 are in Year 9; 21 are in Year 10, and 21 are in Year 11. The social and academic impact of the pandemic is still being fully absorbed by schools, but Disadvantaged Students will be foremost in our considerations as we navigate the landscape of the catch-up programme. At Thomas Telford School we strive to provide all students with the opportunity to flourish, and below are detailed some of the areas we have allocated additional financial resources to.

Use of learning support and nurture – £25,000

Some students benefit from in-class support from teaching assistants, and a number benefit from the nurture programme, aimed at developing the social skills and confidence of children through outward bound activities. 29% of the students in the nurture group were disadvantaged. The School also provided private counselling services to students as required, and 24% of the students who received this support last year were disadvantaged.

Attendance support – £5,000

The appointment of an Attendance Officer was made to assist in monitoring the attendance of all students. There is at present a 1% gap between the attendance of disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students.

Curriculum support – £30,000

Extra staffing has been made available in English and Maths in order to target those who require catch-up. This allows smaller group sized and bespoke intervention work to take place, and disadvantaged students are disproportionately represented in this area.

Careers – £5,000

All children can access Careers guidance at any point during their time at school, learning about different pathways at both post-16 and post-18.

Individualised student support - £15,000

Disadvantaged students can access copies of texts and other resources to assist their learning free of charge, and for which contributions are requested from other students. Contributions are also made to trips and other expenses that are incurred, such as uniform, sports kit, music lessons.

Session 3 and Saturday School - £10,000

Students have benefited from an extensive range of Session 3 activities, both academic and extra-curricular. This included support related to progress in subject areas, either compulsory or by

request, sport and performing arts. Saturday School has so far been made available to Year 10 and 11 students to make up some lost learning.

Transition Summer School - £5,000

New Year 6 students were invited to attend Summer School, a week-long taster of life at Thomas Telford School. 190 students were expected to attend.

Assessment – £2,000

New testing system deployed strategically to identify accurate starting points and establish target setting, and to understand the gap between students. Strategies can then be developed to close the gap.

Sports Transport - £5,000

Students take part in a range of sporting events and no charge is made for transportation.

ICT provision - £10,000

Continuous ICT improvements and personnel ensure that students have access to the best resources possible. The school also provided laptops additional to DFE provision to support students in remote learning. Infrastructure upgrades were carried out to make live lesson provision more effective for all students

Reading book provision - £5,000

Heavy investment in reading books through Library and English department to provide engaging texts in line with policies for directed reading. Increased scale of this priority across school for the next academic year.

Boys programme resources and CPD - £3,000

Contribution towards boys programme for Year 11 students, aimed at increasing performance of high ability boys. 50% of the 24 boys in the groups are Disadvantaged.