

South Dartmoor Community College

Year 7 Catch Up Funding Report: 2018-19

In 2013 the Government made a commitment to provide annual additional educational funding to schools for each Year 7 pupil who had not achieved the average level of attainment in reading and mathematics.

This used to be those students not achieving a level 4 in reading and / or mathematics at Key Stage 2. However, with the changes to the KS2 SATs tests where levels have been replaced by scaled scores, this has become less clear. Many schools are including any student who has not achieved 100 in their scaled score for their reading and maths tests. However, this does mean a far greater number of students fall within this group than previous years. The number of students mean that in general, South Dartmoor Community College has given the greatest level of support to those students who have the greatest need.

SDCC Year 7 Catch Up Funding for 2018/19

Due to the changes outlined above, the government has decided to cap the level of catch up funding as the same for all schools as the previous three year's funding level which for South Dartmoor was **£13,500** for 27 students not achieving L4 in reading and or maths. The government also reduced the level of funding proportionate to the change in cohort for this year compared to last year which is likely to slightly lower our funding level.

In terms of numbers of students, from a cohort of 200 students in September 2018, the following results were obtained:

Reading

53 students scored under 100 in their reading SAT (27%). Of these, five were below the level of the test and four students scored less than 90.

Maths

54 students scored under 100 in their reading SAT (27.5%). Of these, three were below the level of the test and four students scored less than 90.

Both English and Maths

Of these students, 31 students were below 100 (or were below the level of the tests) for both reading and maths which is 15.5% of the whole cohort.

The number of students within this group means that we have to identify those students who are most in need of support in order to catch up with their peers. Typically these are the students who scored lowest in their SATs tests and were identified by their primary school as part of the transition process as needing support and also positively selecting those students who may be disadvantaged.

This year 2018-19, the Learning Enrichment Centre has 29 students from Year 7 accessing this innovative provision divided into two classes which receive 6 (50 minute) sessions of support.

The Learning Enrichment Centre focuses mainly on improving the student's reading and writing abilities along with developing connection to self, others and nature via outdoor education. The entire focus of the LEC provision is clear - to develop our students such that they are able to succeed when they move into Key Stage 4.

In addition to funding the LEC department in terms of teacher hours and general resourcing, the catch up funding will also be used to support –

- Purchase of age appropriate, high interest reading materials.
- Continuing to support the work of 'The Link' – the SDCC programme to engage parents and children in collaborative learning and helping parents to support their children.
- Continuing to resource Environmental Education and emotional Literacy resources (TRIBE Curriculum) and opportunities for our lowest achieving students and developing practice across the college (Rekindle programme).
- To support the funding of residential opportunities for the lowest achieving students to build confidence, self belief and connection to self, others and nature at our partnership centre Embercombe.
- Provision of a specialist maths teaching assistant to support the lowest sets within Maths.
- Provide website access to high interest maths programmes (Math Ninjas, MyMaths etc).
- Ensure that lower set maths classes are kept as small as possible in terms of student numbers.

Impact of the 2017/18 Catch Up Funding

Measuring the impact of the catch up funding has become much more difficult due to the changes in assessment levels within education which makes judging whether a student has achieved a Level 4 and caught up more difficult, especially as new assessment materials have been adopted by secondary schools and almost universally removed from primary schools. However, judgements on progress have been made with the following results:

In terms of numbers of students, from a cohort of 180 students in September 2017, 34 students scored under 100 in their reading SAT (18.8%) and 37 scored under 100 in their maths SAT (20.5%) and within these results, 23 scored under 100 in both their reading and maths tests (12.7%).

Literacy: in 2017 there were 34 students within a cohort of 180 students who did not achieve the standardised score classified as average of 100 for reading (18.8%) with four of these below the level of the test and seven scoring less than 90%.

After one year of support within the LEC and the other support systems within the school within English and the learning support department, the following results were obtained:

Of the 34 students: 16 students (47.1%) had caught up and achieved by the end of Year 7 an equivalent 4b+ with a number making rapid progress and achieving Level 5+. Of the 18 students (52.9%) not achieving the catch up equivalent level of 4b, 6 students were levelled within L4 and 9 were levelled within L3. One student was still levelled at L2.

The average improvement in reading within the lowest achieving students within the LEC was 19.2 months improvement in reading age over a ten month period (Sept to June) which shows accelerated progress.

All the students who scored below L4 in their KS2 exams will continue to receive the intensive support provided by the Learning Enrichment Centre with the lowest achieving students accessing 6 sessions within the LEC in Year 8, again the focus will be to develop reading skills (fluency as well as comprehension), spelling, grammar and the ability to write a range of different text types.

Numeracy: in 2017 there were 37 students within a cohort of 180 students who did not achieve the standardised score classified as average of 100 for maths (20.5%). By the end of Year 7, this number had increased to 39 students (21.6%). Following one year of support within the maths department with quality first teaching, smaller lower set class sizes and specialist teaching assistant support, the following results were obtained:

Of the 29 students, 25 had achieved an equivalent of a 4b or more (64.1%) and 14 had not reached this level (35.9%). Of these, 14, 5 were levelled as L4 and 9 were levelled as L2 or 3.

Beyond the catch up funding....

The journey for these students does not end here. These students will continue to receive the intensive support provided by the Learning Enrichment Centre with a 6 session provision in Year 8. Again the focus will be to continue to develop reading skills (fluency as well as comprehension), spelling, grammar and the ability to write a range of different text types along with the outdoor education opportunities which are so beneficial to our students in terms of them feeling connected with the school, education, themselves, others and nature. All of which will give them the confidence, self-belief and ability to be successful when they begin their journey into Key Stage 4.