

COVID-19 Catch-up Premium

What is Catch-up Funding?

Children and young people across the country have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). Those from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds will be among those hardest hit.

We know that we have the professional knowledge and expertise in the education system to ensure that children and young people recover and get back on track. Returning to normal educational routines as quickly as possible will be critical to our national recovery.

The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time.

Allocation

School allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis, providing each mainstream school with a total of £80 for each pupil in years reception through to 11.

St John Henry Newman will receive £39,640 for the 2020/21 academic year.

Utilisation

Schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their pupils to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months, in line with the guidance on curriculum expectations for the next academic year. Schools have the flexibility to spend their funding in the best way for their cohort and circumstances.

At St John Henry Newman we have carefully considered the areas that would most benefit from this additional funding. The key areas of focus are:

HOY Support Sessions: Groups of pupils to receive additional support and extra time from HOY in after school sessions.

After School Sessions: Additional Tech, Spanish, ICT and English sessions have been delivered to those pupils identified as in greatest need.

Assessment: *The school have purchased additional assessment resources to identify student levels and track progress.*

Student Services: *Pupils emotional needs have increased due to the pandemic and isolation of lockdown. Extra mentoring and support packages have been assigned to focus on pupils' emotional needs and general well-being.*

Student Resources – *Year 9 and 10 have received Study Guides to support their learning and to allow them to work more independently in their areas of specific focus.*

Home Study Kits – *Books and stationery kits were provided for disadvantaged pupils so they could work from home. These were delivered to student homes by staff.*

Additional ICT Support – *Laptop and other devices were purchased for pupils who required additional ICT support in addition to those provided by the Government.*

Software – *School Cloud software was purchased so we could continue with scheduled events to keep parents and pupils informed of their progress during the remote learning period. Additional software to accommodate remote and independent learning was also published including Kerboodle, Reading Cloud, Seneca Premium and Hegarty Maths.*

School Transport – *Bus tickets were provided for some pupils to improve their attendance post Covid.*

We are continuing to source additional mentoring and teaching support to allow students to make further gains.

Accountability and Monitoring

As with all government funding, school leaders must be able to account for how this money is being used to achieve the goal of schools getting back on track and teaching a normal curriculum as quickly as possible.

St John Henry Newman will be transparent in tracking and accounting for the funding.