

CRGS Main School Catch-up Strategy Fund Statement 2021-22

What is the Catch-up Tuition Fund?

The government announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to facilitate a recovery curriculum and address any learning gaps after school closures. This is especially important for students from the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. We were allocated a Recovery Premium of £7,250 and a School-led budget of £6,075 for the academic year 2021/22.

Who can be supported?

Schools should use this funding for specific activities to support their students to catch up for lost teaching over the previous months.

While schools can use their funding in a way that suits their cohort and circumstances, they are expected to use this funding for specific activities which will help students catch up on any missed education, address misconceptions and close learning gaps.

The 'EEF Covid-19 Support Guide for Schools' suggested that a particular focus for interventions is likely to be on literacy and numeracy. Programmes are likely to have the greatest impact where they meet a specific need, in our case English and Mathematics. The EEF states that regular sessions maintained over a sustained period, which are carefully timetabled to enable consistent delivery, are most effective. The EEF states that small group tuition is one of the lowest cost, highest impact teaching strategies to support disadvantaged students who need additional support.

How are we using the Catch-up funding to support our students?

In the first instance, the funding will be used to deliver tuition for KS4 students in English and Maths. SEND and Pupil Premium (Disadvantaged) students are to be prioritised for support; however, additional KS4 students will be considered following consultation with teachers.

Once a programme is in place for KS4 students, KS3 students will be considered for similar targeted tuition in English and Maths. Year 9 students (including all of those who are SEND and Pupil Premium) will be prioritised to facilitate the transition from KS3 to KS4.

The funding is being used to provide remote lessons by NTP-approved tuition agency TLC Live. Students receive personalised tuition that targets English and Mathematics topics covered in Years 9, 10 and 11. TLC Live requires that the students are in small groups of three; however, the students cannot interact with each other. They are assigned separate tasks by their tutor which then receive immediate feedback. The students will have 15 one-hour lessons at the same time each week. Students in Year 11, Year 10 and Year 9 will now access this support.

As well as English and Mathematics, we are also funding lessons in Spanish, Chemistry and Biology with the NTP-approved tuition agency Tute. These lessons will take place at home in small groups of three and, occasionally, there will be some interaction between the students which is supervised by the tutor. The students will have 19 45-minute lessons at the same time each week. Students in Year 11 and Year 10 will now access this support.

We have provided all KS4 students with access to GCSEPod. As a subscriber, the students will have access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to an examination board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that students need for GCSE success. Students can download any Pod to their mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, with or without internet.

Students have informed us that they sometimes felt overwhelmed by homework tasks and requested a quiet place in school to study. As a result we are introducing a quiet Homework/study space at lunchtimes, supervised by a member of our support staff. This post will be part-funded by the Catch-up Premium and Recovery Premium.

We have subscribed to an online literacy assessment tool which enables us to assess the reading and spelling needs of our Year 7 students. The data collected from this will be used to establish Literacy Leader sessions where Year 7 students work alongside Year 10 students, focusing on reading and writing skills. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation suggests that 'peer tutoring, on average, has a positive impact on both tutors and tutees and may be a cost-effective approach to delivering one to one or small group tuition in a school.' According to the EEF, 'successful approaches may also have other benefits, such as supporting the social and personal development of students and boosting their self-confidence and motivation for learning.' At the end of these sessions, Year 7 students will be reassessed, and the data scrutinised. If appropriate, the same students will continue to work with a Literacy Leader.

In the Summer term, we will provide all students in Year 7 and Year 8 with English, Maths and Science study materials. Parents/carers often ask for advice regarding how to support their child at home, therefore, to facilitate the transition between school years we want to continue to support parents/carers who have played a key role in learning at home. The EEF states that supporting students to work independently can improve learning outcomes.

In addition, Catch-up Premium will be used to support appropriate enrichment activities for students. The pandemic has resulted in many such opportunities being curtailed and we know that participation in extra-curricular activity and the positive social interactions which are central to this is essential for students' holistic development.

The use of the funding is regularly reviewed. Please see our Catch-up Strategy statement for further information.

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