

Summer School DfE Funding

Over the summer break this year, we ran a summer school for students who joined us in Y7 this September. A place was offered to all students in the year group (200 students) and we had 193 year 7 students attending across the week.

We had not been able to run any face-to-face induction activities for large groups during the summer term, so the summer school was a great opportunity for students to get to know some new faces in their year group, get to know the school site and work alongside staff who they will be working with in September.

There was a week long programme where students did a carousel of activities, including sporting, creative and team building activities. These activities were led by school staff and outside agencies supported by Y10 and Y12 students who were able to develop their leadership skills.

On the final day, we ended with a fantastic celebration assembly where, as a community, we celebrated all we had achieved throughout the week followed by an overnight camp for the students.

We asked both parents and students about summer school and we were overwhelmed by the positive comments from both parents and students.

"I came away full of confidence, I had fun and it seemed so much better than transition says in term time" - Year 7 student

"I wanted to meet new people, meet teachers, be familiar with the school and be less anxious about starting a new school. I did all this but also had a lot of fun" - Year 7 student

"I really enjoyed leading the activities for the new students at South Axholme. I developed my leadership skills. I now feel more confident in communicating with other people and understand the importance of organisation." - Year 10 student

"Totally what my child needed to become familiar with the school, his form etc he loved it and now isn't nervous about starting" - Year 7 parent

"She was anxious before going but came home each day excited to tell me what she had done. Is now excited to start school." - Year 7 parent

"Summer school provided a fantastic opportunity for my child to become accustomed to the school, some staff members and his peer group." - Year 7 parent

10 members of staff planned and delivered the sessions throughout the week with an additional 9 members of staff supporting throughout the week - working directly with the students. 17 other members of staff supported with the summer school, this included administrative staff, site staff and the safeguarding lead who was onsite. The cost for all the staffing was £16,295.

Other costs for the summer school for the year 7 included £719 for utilities, £2454 for food, £6557 for the resources required for the activities and £4665 for the equipment needed for the students to enjoy the overnight camp.

For a group of identified current year 9 students we were able to offer a place on our 'Preparing for GCSE Support Programme' which includes a three-day outward bounds residential experience (44 places were offered with 34 students accepting a place.)

The program started with a Residential which will run from Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd September and is being followed up with a year-long support programme which will include compulsory attendance at one 25-min lunchtime lesson each week with their designated Academic Champion.

Low Mill Outdoor Centre (where the 3 day residential took place) is dedicated to the development of people through outdoor adventure and learning. Activities included:

- Abseiling
- Kayaking
- Climbing

The lunchtime lessons will include activities which

- Develop learning skills
- Build Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence
- Build resilience
- Develop social skills

It is expected that this programme will have a significant impact on the outlook and engagement of students and will help them develop the skills necessary to be successful GCSE students.

The cost for the preparing for GCSE support programme was £12,585 which included £6000 for staffing and the rest for the accommodation, outreach costs and transport costs.

We received a total of £62,122 from the DfE to cover the costs of the summer school which includes all staffing, planning, deliver, resourcing and services fees.