

Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch-Up Premium

Whitecross Hereford receive catch-up funding from the DFE in order to help students who start school with the lowest levels of primary school attainment in either English or maths. In the most recent financial year, Whitecross received £13,500, which it used (along with central funding) to employ two Higher Level Teaching Assistants to deliver small group literacy and numeracy intervention sessions and help boost the performance of these students. In addition to this, Whitecross employs literacy and numeracy champions who provide interventions and support for all students across the curriculum.

Whitecross identifies those students with the lowest standardised scaled scores in the new Key Stage 2 English and maths SATs for intervention. For example, twenty four students are now working with Mrs Wrigley for four hours per fortnight to boost their literacy skills. They use a variety of approaches (Reciprocal Reading, Lexia, Rapid read, etc.) and the majority make excellent progress as a result. For example, over 70% of the Year 7 students on the programme last year caught up to be at or above the equivalent to Level 4c.

In addition to these interventions, Whitecross runs a small one-to-one reading programme to help students with the lowest reading ages in the year group. This is part of a comprehensive reading programme at Key Stage 3 called the Accelerated Reading Programme. Again, this accelerates the progress made by our students who have the most need, for example the group made on average 6 months progress in their reading age during the summer term last year.