

PUPIL PREMIUM STATEMENT 2017-18

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG), which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to “raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers.” (Department of Education, February 2014).

At Essa Academy we strive to ensure that we deliver our mission of “All Will Succeed” with particular focus on those students identified as disadvantaged. We aim to deliver Quality First Teaching for all our students and we then support this with additional intervention to ensure we close the gap in the attainment of our pupil premium students.

In 2017-18 the additional funding amounted to £438,000 (£935 per student) and helped the school to provide:

- Employment of an attendance officer and a pastoral team who drove to increase attendance of our disadvantaged students and provide support, on a daily basis, to remove barriers to their learning including addressing poor behaviour.
- Small group academic support with a particular focus on reading, English, Maths and Science.
- Establishment of a Saturday School and holiday clubs to provide small group intervention to push attainment and progress across most faculties.
- Establishment of extracurricular clubs to inspire in the Science and Maths arena.
- Employment of an EAL specialist to ensure appropriate provision was in place for our EAL students.
- Numerous learning platforms (revision packs, revision guides, ICT enrolment) to aid revision in and outside school.
- Establishment of Forest Schools that offered an alternative curriculum provision for our most vulnerable students.
- Subsidised peripatetic music lessons to encourage our students to participate in the choir, productions and music in general.
- Employment of a School Mental Health Counsellor who put strategies in place to support those students with complex needs.
- A more cohesive mentoring scheme led by senior members to ensure disadvantaged students are given personalised support.
- Provision of a careers advisory service that raises the aspirations of all our students with a focus on our pupil premium students.
- Essa Experience, a provision that allowed all students to access activities to broaden their minds and enrich their lives beyond academia.
- Subsidies for school trips, travel needs, uniform, sports equipment and cookery classes to ensure our students are exposed to the same experiences as other students.