

## Part B: Review of outcomes in the academic Year 2023-2024

### Pupil premium strategy outcomes

This details the impact that our pupil premium activity had on pupils in the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

#### Priorities

**Priority 1** Improved attainment among disadvantaged pupils across the curriculum at the end of KS4, with a focus on Maths and English.

In the academic year 2023-4 our external GCSE assessments indicate a decline from 2023 outcomes at KS4 for both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students. This mirrors the local picture across the borough as well as the national picture. As per the national picture the gap between our disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students is present with a P8 gap of 0.51 (previous year 0.65) and an A8 gap of 6.58 (previous year 9.18). In 2024 the average P8 figure for the disadvantaged cohort of pupils was -0.37 (which is higher than the national figure of -0.57). The gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged has closed significantly in English (0.03). In Maths the gap has closed since 2023 and stands at (0.38).

**Priority 2** Improved reading comprehension among disadvantaged pupils across KS3. A wide range of interventions were implemented to support students with low levels of literacy on entry, including Fresh Start Phonics, Lexia Power-up, Lexonik Leap, Home-School Comprehension & Packs. 92% of the identified cohort either maintained or improved their literacy scores (WRAT5, single word reading test) by at least one mark or more. We recognise that literacy impacts all pupils' ability to access the whole curriculum and is an ongoing key area for improvement for all students. Our planned future interventions will be coordinated to target the whole school as well as specific groups with an identified need. We are following evidence-based approaches and are continuing to embed a synthetic phonics programme for our weakest cohort of readers.

**Priority 3** To achieve and sustain improved attendance for all pupils, particularly our disadvantaged pupils.

Our overall attendance in 2023-24 was an increase from the previous year at 92.80% (National figure 90.90%). The gap between DA and non-DA students was 3.3% (1.2% less than 2023). The overall attendance figure for PP pupils was 90.50% which is higher than the national figure at 88.90%. The PA figure was 33.90%. Attendance is still a key priority in the SIP and high on the agenda and we have developed a robust graduated response & action plan, as well as ensuring that support plans are in place for all vulnerable students. Our aim is to tackle problems early and reduce the number of students who fall into the persistently and severely absent categories.

**Priority 4** Improved destinations to aspirational pathways to college, university and apprenticeships at post 16 & 18

Over a 3-year trend our NEETS figures remain low for non-DA and DA students. The latest verified figure from 2023 shows that 2.3% of our Y11 cohort were NEET (0 DA). The NEET figure is lower than the Rotherham average in 2023 at 2.5%. At post-18 we had a higher than typical number of students accessing university. The guidance & personal development programmes encourage students to participate in a wide range of outreach opportunities to promote the raising aspirations agenda and we are seeing increased applications to aspirational universities such as Durham, Oxford, Cambridge and King's College, London. 31% of our 2023-24 cohort we DA students. There is an increased focus on raising aspirations of DA students with this area as a focus of 2 Associate Assistant Principals. Two thirds of DA students progressed to university and a another 6% moved onto further study. At post 18 we had 5 students who were NEET (2 DA & 3 non-DA). Last year's DA cohort progressed onto exciting next steps including apprenticeship roles in the NHS and university courses such as Astrophysics at the University of Leeds and Molecular Genetics at King's College, London.

**Priority 5** Improved attendance of disadvantaged pupils to period 6 revision sessions and extra-curricular & enrichment opportunities such as trips and clubs

An increased number of students were able to access school visits. All trip leaders offer financial support to DA students & all DA students who wanted to participate in school trips were encouraged and supported. At post 18 the Associate Assistant Principals have prioritised DA students to ensure that all students participate in outreach opportunities such as Sutton Trust, Discover programmes and Linacre. This continues to be a high priority for the academy.