

Hele's School

A great place to learn. A great place to grow.



September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on how Pupil Premium funding will be used this academic year.

What is Pupil Premium Funding?

In 2011, the Government introduced Pupil Premium to help all children reach their full potential and to achieve higher academic grades at school. The funding is not necessarily given because a student is underachieving, but enables us to address the national trend that Pupil Premium students do not attain as highly as non-Pupil Premium students.

The Government provides academies and schools with additional funding to help eradicate inequalities and gaps in attainment to support specific groups of students who are vulnerable to possible underachievement. These include ***students in years 7-11 who are entitled to free school meals (FSM) or have been in the last 6 years (EVER6), those looked after by the local authority (LAC), children who have been adopted and the children of armed forces personnel.***

How are Pupil Premium students supported?

Research evidence from the Sutton Trust and Education Endowment Fund suggests that high quality teaching has by far the biggest impact on the outcomes for Pupil Premium children, complemented by targeted spending and other low-cost strategies. Low cost strategies can include increased parental involvement, effective feedback, specific homework and self-regulation strategies. High cost strategies which have also been found to have an impact include early intervention, 1:1 tutoring, smaller class sizes and tutor groups, funding of Teaching Assistants, Commitment to Learning intervention and provision of a Study Café amongst other things.

How can I access Pupil Premium funds?

Hele's School is committed to raising the attainment of all students. Our records show that your son/daughter currently meets one of the criteria above for the Pupil Premium. Throughout the year, we will use some of the Pupil Premium money to give your son/daughter specific items and opportunities for free. This may include items such as Super 6 items, GCSE revision guides, a calculator, access to online revision tools or cooking ingredients. This will happen automatically without you needing to make a request.

Continued

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT
Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460
email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467



In addition, each Pupil Premium student (with the exception of students of Armed Forces personnel) will be allocated a personal allowance of £150 each. This money can be used to fund or part-fund the purchase of future school uniform/PE kit (this must be ordered from the school), music lessons within school, school trips or Work Experience (subject to the lifting of current restrictions). Should you wish to pay for any of the items above from your child's Pupil Premium allocation, you simply need to contact the school's Main Reception. ***Over recent years, despite writing twice a year to inform parents of the personal allowance, very few made use of the personal allowance so I would strongly remind you to use this for any of the reasons mentioned above.***

Other initiatives:

Our vision goes well beyond simply closing the gap between those who are economically advantaged and those who are not. We are determined to ensure that all students irrelevant of background or prior attainment, have the qualifications and attributes necessary to succeed in the twenty-first century.

You will know from Miss Mason's letter at the start of the year that we have significantly increased our Pastoral Support Team this year and whilst all students will benefit from this, the impact on Pupil Premium students is likely to be disproportionately positive so we look forward to getting students involved in bespoke pieces of work to match their needs. This may range from working with our Behaviour Mentor through to a course around exam anxiety of wider mental health.

Over the past couple of years, we have trialled a number of new initiatives looking to reward good attendance. Research proves that good attendance, along with engagement in the classroom, results in higher attainment. We will be in touch later in the term about this year's attendance strategy.

If you are the parent/carer of a Year 11 student, you will already have received a letter regarding some of the opportunities available to students this year, including weekly small group maths tuition throughout the year. We are thrilled to be able to offer the tutoring model to year groups beyond Year 11 this year too and will be in touch once we receive final guidance from the Government about this.

How can I help?

We know that one of the greatest factors in the educational success of any child is the link between home and school. We are very keen to work with you throughout your child's time at Hele's School and really value your feedback on our current provision and any suggestions you may have for future interventions which could support your child. Should you have any comments or wish to discuss any aspect of Pupil Premium funding further, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Pupil Premium Champion, Mrs Lenden (lenden@heles.plymouth.sch.uk). In the meantime, we will continue to evaluate our Pupil Premium spend annually and adapt our provision accordingly. In turn, I will update the school website to provide a greater level of detail on our Pupil Premium spend for this academic year, so please refer to the website for any further details you may require.

Kind regards,



Emma Clapham - Assistant Principal

clapham@heles.plymouth.sch.uk