

## Pupil Premium at Octagon AP Academy

In 2017/18 Octagon AP Academy received £37,895 in Pupil Premium funds.

Our strategy is to provide interventions to all learners who need support to improve their educational outcomes.

Learners at Octagon AP Academy may experience a number of barriers to learning: these include poor attendance, poor literacy and/or numeracy, anger management concerns, low self-esteem and negative attitude to their learning experiences in mainstream education. Some learners also experience mental health difficulties.

We measure the impact of these strategies through ongoing tracking of learner progress in

5 key areas:

- Y11 attainment and in-year progress.
- Improvements in attendance.
- Improvements in behaviour for learning.
- Improvements in literacy and numeracy.
- Improvements in mental well-being.

The following strategies are used to support our learners:

**Behaviour interventions:** We improve behaviour for learning through educational excursions, rewards and weekly enrichment sessions in Key Stage 3. Through positive relationships with staff, learners begin to manage their behaviour, develop a positive attitude to school life and to learning.

**Feedback:** class sizes are small, enabling regular feedback from teacher to learner. 'Live' marking is used as an effective tool for assessing learner's progress in every lesson. This model helps learners to understand how they are making progress, and develops their ability to assess themselves. They also engage in peer assessment and self-assessment where applicable.

**1:1 support:** Some learners have a number of barriers which prevent them from working in groups. We offer 1:1 support from our Learning Support Professionals and teachers on a weekly basis to a small number of learners to teach subjects including English, Maths and Music. Interventions can utilise the recently sourced IXL on line software which tracks and shows progress for students in literacy and numeracy.

**Literacy interventions:** All learners are assessed when they arrive at Octagon AP Academy so that we have an understanding of any underlying literacy needs.

Learners with a low reading age are referred to the Sound training programme for a 7-week intervention. The learner's reading age is tested at the beginning and end of the programme to show progress made. A whole school literacy programme had been developed in 2016/17 to ensure that the strategies used in Sound training are applied across all subjects and this continues in 2017/18. Reading comprehension is also developed through 1:1 interventions and whole-school strategies.

**Therapy:** The use of therapy is vital for supporting our students and all students have an initial therapy session upon admission to the Octagon. This contributes to the Learner profile which is shared with staff. To continue to support the Learner, the Octagon offers a variety of therapeutic strategies including play, art, music and psychotherapy. Reports are written periodically which can contribute to EHCPs, referrals for a student to return to mainstream or recommendation for further or additional interventions.

This information is reported to TBAP Trust Board and LAB members through termly reports.

All LAB reports are published on our website. We also report to parents/carers on how pupils progress during our Structured Conversations conducted by our school learning guides each term.