



Biddick Academy

Summer School 2021

Context:

As a result of the pandemic, students were likely to need additional support with English and maths, for example, to make it easier for them to access parts of the secondary curriculum. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence points to children and young people needing further support with personal development and mental health.

The Education Endowment Foundation found that on average, students attending a summer school can make up to two months' additional progress (up to 4 months if the summer school offers small group tuition led by highly trained and experienced teaching staff).

Biddick Academy delivered a bespoke summer school themed around the Tokyo 2021 Olympics which explored and reinforced literacy and numeracy skills, whilst developing students' team building skills and aspirations

The curriculum addressed literacy and numeracy gaps resulting from disruption to Year 6, offered a blend of academic education and enrichment activities and face-to-face support ahead of the start of Year 7.

Students enjoyed new experiences, built their confidence, reinforced learning and established good peer relationships.

Details:

The Summer School took place between Monday 19th and Friday 23rd July 2021. The Academy has applied for DfE funding, a detailed breakdown will follow once funding has been confirmed by the DfE.

On average 112 students attended each day (43 students were unable to attend due to isolation. For those students unable to attend due to self-isolation, a bespoke tour of Biddick Academy was held at a later date).

Students participated in a range of literacy activities, for example Haiku poetry, creative writing and exploring different genres in literature. Within the numeracy curriculum, the focus was on ordering of numbers, budgeting, problem solving, geometry and shapes. As part of the transition process and personal development, students took part in an orienteering challenge and a Crystal Maze teambuilding task. They also participated in a Smoothie Bike activity which allowed pupils to challenge themselves to try new fruits and learn about healthy eating while exploring the importance of sustainable energy sources.

Impact

Feedback from students was extremely positive, with the overwhelming majority of students stating that the Summer School allowed them to feel better prepared for starting Biddick Academy in September. Students reported that they enjoyed all of the sessions and acquired numerous skills during the Summer School. In particular student feedback highlighted developing confidence, literacy skills, numeracy skills, communication, understanding of Haiku poetry, map reading, resilience, speaking in front of a crowd, teamwork, problem solving and most of all making friends.

Parent feedback was exceptionally positive, 100% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed that the Summer School was highly effective in providing their child with opportunities to both develop their literacy and numeracy skills alongside their confidence, team building and social skills.

One parent stated 'our daughter's confidence grew as the week progressed and I must say thank you to the staff I spoke to about our daughter's worries. Your actions certainly helped her to feel more settled'. Another parent commented that the Summer School was 'a fabulous opportunity to prepare my child for starting in Year 7.' This was echoed by a number of parents who commented that their child 'absolutely loved it', and that they 'can't wait for September'.

All parents/carers stated that they would recommend the Summer School programme to other parents/carers.