

Higham Lane School

2021 summer school

The Secretary of State for Education provided financial assistance to eligible schools and local authorities for their maintained schools, as stated in section 14 of the Education Act 2002, in the form of the coronavirus (COVID-19) summer schools programme fund (SSPF). The fund was to enable face-to-face summer schools in the summer of 2021.

The aim of the programme, drawing on the evidence of good practice, was to deliver a short summer school, offering a blend of academic education and enrichment activities.

Department for Education (DfE) research estimates that in the first half-term of autumn 2020, pupils in:

- year 3 to 9 were on average around 1.6 to 2 months behind on their reading
- year 3 to 7 were around 3.2 months behind on their maths
- schools with high numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals were on average further behind those in schools with low free school meals eligibility

Anecdotal evidence also points to children and young people's mental health having suffered from lockdown and from periods of individual or class isolation even after schools reopened fully in the autumn term of 2020/21.

Summer school provision with an academic focus has the potential to support attending pupils to make up for some of their missed education. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) finds that, on average, pupils attending a summer school can make:

- 2 months' additional progress (compared with pupils who do not attend)
- up to 4 months' additional progress if the summer school offers small group tuition led by highly-trained and experienced teaching staff

Evidence suggests a broader benefit for families and communities, support for vulnerable children and young people, pupil mental health and wellbeing, improved education engagement and transitions, and reduced youth violence.

Summer school also offers an important opportunity to support pupils' wellbeing. Schools were expected to enrichment activities, such as team games, music, drama or sports activities as well as subject support.

It was expected that schools would focus this provision on pupil transitioning into Year 7 and this was what Higham Lane School offered.

The reason for this is that pupils leaving primary school this year may have missed a significant proportion of key stage 2 face-to-face teaching and therefore missed valuable preparation for secondary education. Some are likely to need additional support with English and maths, for example, to make it easier for them to access the secondary curriculum. A summer school gives an opportunity to offer that face-to-face support before they start a new school.

A summer school for its incoming year 7, provided an opportunity for those students to:

- build a community with their fellow pupils
- forge relationships with new teachers
- familiarise themselves with their new school environment

The summer school ran for the week commencing 16 August 2021 and was for 120 upcoming Year 7 students attending each day. The summer school was offered to all Year 7 students. The programme consisted of maths, English and enrichment activities.

The Summer School was run by an external training specialist. The School also brought its own staff in to support with the programme.

The total cost of the programme was approximately £38,000 which was broken down as follows: -

Area of cost	Amount (£'000)
External training provider	32
Cost of meals provided by external catering provider	2
Cost of internal staff to support programme	4