

Summer School 2021

Impact report

A five day summer school was offered to all incoming Year 7 students who were joining St Gregory's in September.

We ran the summer school utilising the support of Teachus Organisation from Wednesday 11th August until Tuesday 17th August. A particular effort was made to engage more vulnerable students and we contacted all parents by letter, email and then subsequent text messages. The summer school was promoted both at face to face events at Primary schools and also at our two new parent induction sessions at school to encourage both the pupils and their families to attend.

The summer school aimed to support pupils with the transition from their primary school to St Gregory's, and to support educational and wellbeing recovery following COVID-19, and repeated interruptions to Year 5 and year 6 and transition to St Gregory's.

The summer school curriculum comprised of lessons in English, Maths, as well as lessons in Sport, Team Building, Drama and securing positive wellbeing. We also ran a Sports Day and Activities Day to support pupils in meeting new friends and learning to socialise and interact with each other as year group. All pupils who attended were given a bag, stationary, water bottle, thesaurus and scientific calculator, which they kept for the start of Year 7. All pupils who completed the 5 day summer school were also rewarded for their attendance and engagement with an Acer tablet which is fully Microsoft compliant and will support pupils with their independent e-learning and remote learning.

We launched on the first day with Collective Worship, in line with our Catholic ethos and an introduction to the week. At the start of each day, we also had form time to ensure that pupils were ready for the day and to address any questions. We finished the week with a celebratory Collective Worship, celebrating every individual's talents and achievements. Lunch was provided for all pupils and eaten by all staff and pupils together each day. Any surplus food was collected by the Salvation Army each day as part of our Faith in Action to support our local community.

Following changes to the government guidelines regarding holidays, the number of pupils who attended out of the 206 who originally said they wished to partake, averaged on 195, 31 of whom were disadvantaged pupils.

Attendance was as follows:

Day 1 189

Day 2 187

Day 3 181

Day 4 179

Day 5 176

Parents/ carers of pupils who had signed up to attend, but not arrived, were contacted by Teachus. The most common reason given was changing holiday plans. We also had one positive COVID case which impacted upon two days of the summer school.

Feedback was sought from pupils who identified that their favourite parts of the summer school to have been:

- ✓ Making new friends
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ The drama and sport activities and activities day
- ✓ Pupils also liked being able to recap maths from year 6 during lockdown. Many pupils enjoyed the focus of the English lessons around Matilda and identified with the school transition theme

Many parents and carers commented on how the summer school has made their child less anxious about starting a new school and many were looking forward to seeing their new friends and teachers again. Parents of pupils with EHCPs were grateful that their child could settle into the new school and familiarise themselves with the layout and team of staff, (including the SENDCO and TAs) who would be supporting their child.

The structure of the day worked well and could be replicated without change. Many pupils commented that if the summer school were to run again they would appreciate a tour of the full building including the one way systems. This was unable to take place safely this year as we had contractors onsite and therefore for safety reasons we had to keep the Summer School to half the building. Pupils also commented that they would like to experience the full range of hot meals that the canteen offers during term time so they could get used to the new hot dinners on offer.

All feedback from all pupils has been collated and kept for future purposes.

Miss E Lavin

Deputy Headteacher