

What is Covid-19 'Catch up'?

In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government.¹

The catch-up premium is funded on a per pupil basis at £80 per pupil. The spending of this money will be down to schools to allocate as they see best. Evidence-based approaches to catch up for all pupils published by from the Education Endowment Foundation² has been used to help guide the decisions on how to make the best use of this funding.

Key Priority

To support all students across the age and ability range to 'recover' from the impact that 'Covid-19' (and its associated disruption) has had on their achievement and progress, and on their wider development and wellbeing.

Main barriers to 'recovery', in respect of students' achievement and wellbeing

- Achievement and progress
 - Gaps in learning and lost curriculum coverage.
 - Limited access to appropriate high-quality resources and materials to support intervention and targeted support in addressing 'gaps' in knowledge that have accrued.
 - Reduced levels of resilience, and/or aspirations, in learning behaviours and lack of stamina in returning to a full school day.
 - Ongoing interruptions to learning due to further national lockdowns and / or the need to self-isolate.
 - Reduced level of 'buy-in' to the school's normally positive culture of learning and participation.
 - Need to re-establish and reset normal school routines and behavioural expectations following students spending time outside of school.

- Wellbeing:
 - Increased levels of anxiety and stress from the lockdown and requirements to self-isolate.
 - Increased incidents of domestic violence and abuse during the lockdown period.
 - Risk of exploitation to vulnerable students following lockdown.

- External
 - Economic poverty and hungry children
 - Limited access to IT resources and broadband connectivity
 - Complexities with families who are suffering adverse situations caused directly or indirectly by Covid.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>

²

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/national-tutoring-programme/covid-19-support-guide-for-schools/>

Objectives of our Covid Catch-Up Catch Premium strategy

- To ensure attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will be at least in line with those over the preceding three-year period.
- To ensure that each subject area plans and implements an effective recovery curriculum to address the knowledge and skills gaps that might have arisen during the national lockdown and any subsequent periods when students have been required to self-isolate or work from home.
Each subject's recovery curriculum to be supported by appropriate high-quality resources and materials.
- To ensure all children have access to a high-quality remote learning provision in the event of further lockdowns or if required to self-isolate for a period of time.
This remote learning provision to be permanently available online for students to support retrieval practice.
- To ensure that the least able students in Year 7 (that were working below national expectation in at the end of KS2) successfully build the essential literacy and numeracy skills needed to effectively access the secondary curriculum.
Previously this work would have been supported by the Year 7 Catch-Up Premium which has been superseded by this new Covid-19 Catch Up Premium, and it is important that this work (which is needed even more) does not stop.
- To ensure the wellbeing and mental health needs of pupils are met and supported by the school.
- To ensure that all students have multiple opportunities to participate in the life of the school and are supported and challenged to and buy-in to the school culture.
- To ensure that high levels of parental engagement are maintained whilst face-to-face meetings are limited.

Spending summary for Covid Catch-Up Catch Premium (2020-21)

Total number of pupils on roll	1062
Total amount of catch up-premium received per pupil	£80 (approx.)
Total catch-up premium budget	£90922

During 2020-2021 we will use the Catch up Premium in the following ways:

To provide after-school intervention (Period 6) for Years 11 and 13 in order to make up for the 'lost learning time' caused by previous lockdown. This cost includes staffing costs, leadership oversight, and providing free transport to students.	£20,000
To provide additional support for SEN and disadvantaged students during after-school intervention so that they can access high quality intervention through additional TA support.	£2000
To increase staff access to laptops so that all students can be provided with high quality remote learning in periods of lockdown. Other equipment, such as visualisers, will mean that lesson material can be recorded for intervention reasons. This will also increase the ability for the school to provide students with live lessons and remote intervention. This will also lead to a bank of curriculum resources being created for future catch-up purposes.	£40000
To support those students whose reading scores mean that they were working below national expectations at the end of KS2 and who would previously have been supported through the Year 7 Catch-Up Premium	£6190
To ensure all children in receipt of free-school meals have provision made for food during holidays.	£ 5,000

Total Budgeted £73190

Review of Catch Up Fund - October 2021:

Holyrood Academy, in the year 2020-2021 significantly closed the disadvantage gap (Estimated Progress 8 for Disadvantaged Students was 0.54 in comparison to 0.64 for non-disadvantaged students – the disadvantaged gap in 2019 was significantly higher). We are therefore satisfied that the funding from 2020-2021 was used well with high impact.

This fund has been reviewed at the end of the academic year with updated figures adjusted above. When reviewing the impact of the 2020-2021 Catch Up Fund the following should be noted:

- £18000 was put aside for access to 'high quality tuition'. As a school in the bottom 20% for deprivation in England, Holyrood qualified for partially funded support from the 'Academic Mentors' programme delivered by Teach First. This means that we should have been able to have recruited two subject specialist tutors who would have been able to provide 1:1, 1:2, 1:3 support. Unfortunately after both a national and a local recruitment drive Holyrood Academy and Teach First were unable to source suitable candidates.
- When this became apparent, we then attempted to use the government-subsidised National Tutoring Programme to source tutoring for students. No National Tutoring Programme partner has been able to source any face-to-face tutors for Holyrood Academy.

- It was therefore decided that the carry-forward from 2020-2021 will be spend on the following:
 - Providing all KS4 students access to GCSE Pod as part of our Catch Up Strategy.
 - Providing all students in the Academy access to SPARX, a research-driven Maths intervention/homework package that has been shown to have high quality impact from an independent Cambridge University research review.
- We will still endeavour to source high quality tutoring for students for the academic year 2021-2022 using funds allocated from that period.

The 'Carry Forward' from 2020-2021 is allocated to the following:

To provide all KS4 students access to GCSE Pod in order to help identify gaps in their learning and address them. GCSE Pod provides high quality learning resources for the subjects that we offer at Holyrood. It is accessible to students in school and at home on a wide range of devices (including smart phones).	£12791
To provide students with headphones to use to access GCSE Pod in school.	£97
To provide all students access to Sparx, an online Maths platform which will be used to address gaps in learning. Sparx has been independently verified to be a high impact strategy. It's machine learning algorithm will assess students' weaknesses and target work and support accordingly.	£2000
To train up our PFSA to deliver the 'Tuning in to Teens' parent groups. This research driven project helps parents to learn the skills needed to improve relationships between parents and students. The cost covers training, course materials and some administrative support needed to set up parent groups.	£1000
To run the CREST award. This is an extra-curricular project aimed at developing KS3 students' practical science skills. In recognition that many students would have missed vital practical work during Covid restrictions, this will be targeted at students who need to have additional support and inspiration for practical science experiments.	£120
To increase the staffing of Lexia intervention through additional TA support during Lexia lessons.	£1500

Total Budgeted £17508

The additional £224 carry forward will be kept in reserve for any unexpected costs.

School Led Tutoring Grant 2021-2022

Holyrood is scheduled to receive £30172 for from the School-Led Tutoring Grant for the academic year 2021-2022. This is designed to help schools to fund high-quality tuition for students in order to address gaps in their learning. The school is expected to contribute from existing budgets to this fund too, therefore bringing the total amount of money up to £40229.

As in 2020-2021, Holyrood Academy has again advertised both locally and nationally for face-to-face tutors without any success (apart from finding one tutor for Post-16 Maths, see below). Holyrood have approached the National Tutoring Programme again. All tuition partners have confirmed that they too do not have any tutors who consider face-to-face work in Chard.

At the point of this report, in October, this money is still unallocated. We will explore using the funds through online tuition packages instead.

Post 16 Tuition Fund 2020-2021:

The 16 to 19 tuition fund is ring-fenced funding for schools, colleges and all other 16 to 19 institutions who receive annual funding allocations from ESFA for the provision of 16 to 19 education, to mitigate the disruption to learning arising from coronavirus (COVID-19).

In 2020-21 Holyrood received £7778 in funding

At Holyrood, the 2020-2021 post-16 element of the Catch Up Funding has been allocated to providing high quality online tuition to support students who have gaps in their learning.

This tuition will provide post-16 students targeted support in a wide range of specialist subject areas. Assessment data will be used to identify students in need. This funding may be supplemented by the discretionary bursary fund to ensure that disadvantaged students have their needs met.

Review of Post-16 Tuition Fund – October 2021:

Similarly to the issues faced with the general Catch Up Fund, despite local and national advertisements, tutors were unable to be found for Post-16 students.

We therefore will carry forwards this funding to the current academic year and will resort to accessing online tuition for students who are identified as needing additional support.

Post 16 Tuition Fund 2021-2022:

The 2021-2022 post-16 element of the Catch Up Funding will be dedicated to face-to-face specialist maths tuition for students resitting their GCSE Maths.. Data over time shows that post-16 outcomes in GCSE Maths at Holyrood, and nationally, are not as strong when compared to GCSE English. Assessment data will be used to prioritise those who have been disrupted most by the pandemic. This tuition will be in delivered in either, 1:1, 1:2, or 1:3 groups and will be in addition to students' usual curriculum allocation for GCSE Maths. Holyrood have successfully appointed a tutor to this position who will commence work in the second half of the autumn term. All GCSE resit students will have access to tutoring.