

# **St Joseph's College**

## **Yr6-Yr7 Transition Summer School**

### **July / August 2021**

St Joseph's College hosted another very successful summer activities programme this year which was offered to all 155 students that joined us in September 2021. The programme had 4 aims:

- To build a community with their fellow pupils
- forge relationships with new teachers
- familiarise themselves with their new school environment
- narrow the gaps that may have started to develop owing to the pandemic

The programme was split into two distinct styles of delivery. The first part of the programme lasted for 3 days from Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July. These first days offered an important opportunity to support pupils' wellbeing focusing on enrichment activities, such as: music, drama , sports activities (health and well-being) and food technology while also delivering literacy, numeracy, linguistic and scientific lessons in a fun environment. The cultural capital pupils may have lost owing to the pandemic could have been significant as they may not have heard as many words as they would on a normal day or read the books or been to the different places they might have otherwise. Some pupils won't have had access to a garden or other safe outdoor space during lockdown, so it was vital that those opportunities were part of the programme.

The second part of the programme took place on the penultimate 2 days of the summer holiday Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 9.00 until 3.00pm each day. The focus for these days was to try and assist the students in retrieving many of the core topics that are fundamental to the start of the Yr7 curriculum and so was mainly concerned with academic transition and closing the gaps. We decided to split the two components to help to get the students ready to return to school so it wasn't going to be a marked contrast from their holiday / lockdown.

### **Participation Analysis:**

**85%** (132 / 155) of the student cohort secured a place to attend the programme on at least one of the 5 days.

**Up to 77%** (120 / 155) of the student cohort booked a place to attend the programme on a single day (27<sup>th</sup> August) but owing to last minute Covid factors the highest days attendance was 61% of the cohort (95 /155 students). We had obviously planned for 120 students to attend on that day.

**100%** (13/13) of the pupil premium students were offered and booked a place on the programme and attended at least 1 of the 5 days with an average attendance of 3.5 / 5 days for the cohort.

### **Funding:**

We are hoping to secure government funding to cover the costs of the summer school programme to the total of £15,381.53.

### **Student Feedback:**

We always carry out an evaluation questionnaire at the end of the programme to try to keep improving for the future cohorts. Quotes from students who attended the programme this year:

"I feel more confident because I met more people and made new friends"

"I know I will like this school - summer school was amazing!"

"I feel more confident because I know most of my form and have made new friends"

"I have got used to the surroundings, pupils and teachers"

"I know my way around and I know what it is like"

"I was always very excited for joining but now I am reassured of where to go!"

"I can't wait for school to start!"

Thank you to **all the staff** that were involved in the organisation and delivery of such a worthwhile programme.