

## 2021 Summer school programme & Impact assessment

The Alperton Community Summer School created a unique school experience for our new student cohort who were starting the academic year in September in Year 7.

We acknowledge that this year would have been particularly hard for young people across our Borough. Many would have experienced gaps in their academic attainment from the loss of learning caused by the pandemic however, many would have also demonstrated and would have been exposed to and experienced high levels of social and emotional needs. For students who were in Year 6 and transitioning to Secondary school during this summer, we expected that these concerns would have been amplified and more concentrated than usual.

The aim of the Alperton Summer School was to successfully bring together the entire new cohort of students in Year 7 during the first two weeks of the summer holiday. We were hoping to create an opportunity to welcome them into our school community as soon as possible where they would be inducted and immersed in our rich school ethos and culture from the onset.

Every year, we typically receive 325 new students who arrive at us from at least 42 different feeder schools. Having this many feeder schools often brings a range of different experiences of varying consistency and this year we were expecting even more challenges. As a result, we created a programme that was mainly led by our own school staff and which would be bespoke, ambitious, engaging, supportive and helped to meet the student's needs prior to them starting in September.

We designed the programme based on accommodating half the cohort each week for a full day of activities. During each day, the students would experience a range of different lessons in small form groups which included Numeracy, Literacy, Art, Music, Technology, Sports, Geography, Computing and Science. All of the activities (or lessons) were planned thoroughly and were delivered ensuring that they; promoted team building, were highly engaging, inclusive, promoted our school values and ethos, were fun and which were led by our own staff subject specialist.

In order to ensure that each session was meaningful and planned well, we liaised with many of the Year 6 teachers from the feeder schools so that we could obtain additional information about their students with regards to ability, social needs as well as any other pastoral issues that they could share. This was extremely useful in enabling us to make preparations and to design lessons where each student could fully access and engage in. We also provided an additional member of our school staff to each form group who ensured that all students felt included and were able to participate.

Through our summer school programme, we were able to successfully:

- Support students to familiarise themselves with the buildings, systems and staff.
- Support students feel happy and more comfortable about meeting and making new friends.
- Support students by answering questions relating to the school, life as a Year 7 student or the start of the academic year.

- Support students in strengthening their knowledge and skills in Numeracy, Literacy, Art, Music, Technology, Sports, Geography, Computing and Science.
- Support the school to identify and induct key students who have EHCPs, SEND, LAC or EAL needs and to help them start to plan their interventions and support programmes if needed.
- Support the school to identify knowledge gaps in Numerary, Literacy and PHSE and review our year 7 curriculum to address these.
- Support the school to create opportunities to meet and build relationships with the Parents, Carers and Social Workers.
- Support the school to understand the academic needs of this cohort and for teachers to be able to prepare their curriculum accordingly.

Below are some extracts taken from the student survey that was gathered at the end of each week of the Summer School.

- “ I'm quite glad that we got to explore around the school because even though I've been inside this school as my siblings go here, I got to experience more things throughout this week. Over all, I really enjoyed coming here for the week”
- “ I really want to say that I enjoy and have make new friends even the teacher were very kind”
- “This summer school has been really the best experience ever and I really love the teachers. They are so kind and funny.”
- “I really liked it and I think this will help me feel better and easier when I come in September”
- “This school is amazing and I look forward to studying here at Alperton.”
- “This summer school was generally very nice and too keep me out of the house a lot, There's also a lot of kind teachers and students that i've made friends with”

The impact of the summer school has also been evident through our staff's comments and acknowledgement of the speed and the noticeable difference where this particular cohort seemed to have “settled” into the September term quicker than previous years. Student absences were noticeably less than in previous years as students attended with a stronger sense of confidence and excitement. This was all mainly due to the students having the experience and opportunity to thoroughly explore the school's buildings, systems, make friends and, of course, by recognising the friendly and familiar faces of the school's staff. They felt part of the school community before they even officially started on the school roll thus experiencing a successful transition into secondary school.

The school received a total funding of £54,259 towards the costs of running this summer school from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Overall the Summer School programme was a resounding success and as a result, we are hoping to replicate this model for future new cohorts.