

Rationale: “Can we close the gap for Pupil Premium Students?”

We wanted to explore a range of strategies to improve the school experience for Pupil Premium students and in doing so close the attainment gap for all. We wanted to identify and breakdown barriers to learning and raise the aspirations of PP students.

The range of strategies used included:

- Student questionnaires
- Staff questionnaires

I wanted to see what staff knew about PP students and what they were doing in lessons to help close the gap. To do this I created a questionnaire to find out what knowledge staff have. Staff wanted to understand what makes a PP student PP and wanted to know more about the student as an individual rather than looking at them as a group. *Natasha Lawrence*

- Mentoring – using year 12 to mentor KS3 students
- Creating a PP register for staff

I created a register that identifies attendance, barriers to learning and strategies to use for each individual PP student. This will be updated each term and although it took, a lot of time to set up this is a good resource to support staff in their lessons. The feedback from staff has identified that 96% of staff have found this helpful and will use it for future planning. *Natasha Lawrence*

- Planning visit to University/British museum to raise aspiration
- TLDW research focused on improving attendance and improve results

I decided to complete my TLDW and my focus was Pupil Premium, I wanted to look at strategies to help close the gap. Over the year, I have read multiple books, visited different schools, presented at network events and implemented new strategies. I found this helpful and enabled me to develop my practice. The impact of this is the register has been created and the 8 steps have been shared with staff, I will spend the next year embedding these two resources in to every day planning. *Natasha Lawrence*

- Increasing school engagement eg running clubs
- Confidence workshops

The Girls Leadership Group is a group of 19 Year 10 and Year 12 students, the purpose of this group is to build confidence in the girls at Dame Alice Owens and the girls have run multiple confidence workshops to all year 7 girls. The workshops were initially for PP students but were then rolled out to all girls. They are a great way to build relationships between different year groups and give the girls the support they need in becoming confident young women. *Natasha Lawrence*

- Visiting other schools

I have found visiting other schools a great way to get new ideas and new strategies. It is clear that many schools are spending time working with the family and primary school, not just the pupil. The impact of this is that secondary schools are making links with primary school to ensure nothing slips through and every pupil is given the time and support they need. Families are finding it hard to go from primary school

where they have lots of support and their child's teacher knows them very well to going to secondary school and being a little fish in a big pond. Developing the transition process in schools could have a big impact on PP outcomes. *Natasha Lawrence*

8 steps

During a network event, I was given the 10 teaching steps to close the gap that are used at John Henry Newman. I decided to adapt these steps and make them more specific to DAOS. The 8 steps identify how important it is to teach good lessons and to know your pupils. These have been shared with staff and I have received lots of positive feedback on these steps. *Natasha Lawrence*

During our research we found that (in one school) over a quarter of staff want more information on Pupil Premium.

We hope the outcomes from the research will inspire staff in other schools to share good PP practice and find the resources available here helpful.