

Branston Community Academy

Pupil Premium Strategy Statement



This statement details our school's use of pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	1085
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	21% (31% including services)
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3 year plans are recommended)	2022-2025
Date this statement was published	Dec 2023
Date on which it will be reviewed	Nov 2024
Statement authorised by	Joanne Turner
Pupil premium lead	Jo Baker
Governor / Trustee lead	David Dearden

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£280,232
Recovery premium funding allocation this academic year	£56,580
Pupil premium (and recovery premium*) funding carried forward from previous years (<i>enter £0 if not applicable</i>) <i>*Recovery premium received in academic year 2021 to 2022 can be carried forward to academic year 2022 to 2023. Recovery premium received in academic year 2022 to 2023 cannot be carried forward to 2023 to 2024.</i>	£0
Total budget for this academic year	£336,812

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

Improving outcomes and life chances for all of our students is at the very heart of what we do at Branston Community Academy. Our work with our disadvantaged students is key to ensure that every single student achieves the best education that allows them to achieve and realise their potential. Strategies to address disadvantage rely on the quality relationships that we forge. Ultimately, we want our disadvantaged students to have a better relationship with learning, and this is at the heart of our strategy – that we help to improve our students as learners, and enable them to get the best out of their time with us at Branston Community Academy.

High quality teaching has been proven to have the greatest impact on closing the attainment gap, and we have high quality teaching at the very core of our strategy. Improving teaching quality and focusing on recruitment and retention of the best teachers enables us to ensure that high quality teaching is integral to our provision and plan. Our clear focus is on identifying pupil need, closing the attainment gap, and working towards achieving no gap in levels of engagement, effort and attendance.

Our strategy focuses on closing the attainment gap as well as broadening horizons and developing enthusiasm and curiosity. We aim to remove any barrier to enjoyment of learning. We believe relationships are at the heart of starting to address educational disadvantage and will continue to ensure we put these at the forefront of our strategies. Quality of learning environment and a sense of belonging for all our students is at the very heart of what we do. We want all students to experience and embrace every opportunity, and we will endeavour to provide all students with a full range of educational and wider experiences. We value opportunities to extend and develop our students' Cultural Capital. School is far more than subject lessons. We offer targeted support to enable all our students to access all that Branston Community Academy has to offer. We will use the Pupil Premium to ensure our students are supported in accessing everything that makes education exciting and inspiring. Raising aspiration and breaking down barriers to success is the driver of everything we do and offer within our Pupil Premium strategy.

We have a tiered approach about negating the impact of disadvantage on learning; teaching & learning, academic intervention and wider approaches. Our dedicated Student Support team work closely with students to ensure the approach is right for each and every child. Our approach is a highly personalised one; removing barriers to ensure that every student is able to access learning and can achieve their very best. We focus on attainment gaps and data, alongside close attention to the wider experiences of our students, and support them with a dedicated team of Student support officers.

All students, regardless of their background or any challenges they may face will have access to the highest quality education. Students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and all students have full and equal access to all learning opportunities. We provide equity of opportunity for all, and work hard to remove any barriers to success, whether they be

academic, material or self-belief. We have a range of strategies to ensure equity of experience in school.

Our strategy aligns with the EEF Guide to Pupil Premium: [Pupil-Premium-resource-evidence-brief-Poster.pdf \(d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net\)](#)

Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	<i>Closing the attainment gap, esp in English and Maths</i>
2	Ensuring our teachers have continual access to high quality CPD in order to improve and extend classroom experiences of students
3	Maximising cultural capital and experiences. Living in Lincolnshire often presents with problems accessing high quality cultural experiences. Raising aspirations and ambitions for the future – post 16
4	Improving the mental health / well-being of our students. Emotional and pastoral support.
5	Ensuring high expectations for every single student, in every single classroom. Raising aspirations and ambitions for the future – post 16

Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for **by the end of our current strategy plan**, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
<i>To ensure disadvantaged students make comparable progress to their peers across all subjects. Progress 8 and attainment 8</i>	Continue to narrow the gap
High Quality Teaching is a focus in all departments. High expectations for all.	All students have access to the highest quality provision across all subjects.
Raising percentage of Grade 5+ in English and Maths	Students gaining level 5+ will be comparable to non PP students.
Focus on well-being and social/emotional education	Raising opportunities / life skills. Ensuring all students are in the best possible position to learn. Raising aspirations
Students have full access to a wide variety of activities and experiences	Enhanced cultural capital / experiences. PP students make full use of the student pledge opportunities

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium (and recovery premium) funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £ 61,330

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<i>Whole school focus on closing the attainment gap, ensuring all students can achieve on or above FFT target, thus placing them in line with students of similar ability nationally (KS4 focus)</i>	<p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/documents/support-for-schools/bitesize-support/EEF_Key_lessons_learned.pdf?v=1671044525</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/production/documents/support-for-schools/bitesize-support/EEF_Attainment_Gap_Report_2018_-_print.pdf?v=1701833986</p> <p>What happens in the classroom makes the biggest difference: improving teaching quality generally leads to greater improvements at lower cost than structural changes. There is particularly good evidence around the potential impact of teacher professional development. EEF</p> <p>CPD focus is on improving the quality of teaching and centres around closing the attainment gap. Subjects report and focus on this throughout close scrutiny of data and whilst target setting within their MSR documents. The focus is structured around how we can continue to close the attainment gap.</p> <p>Retrieval practice is a focus for 2023/24</p>	1
<i>Focus on High Quality Teaching / effective CPD programme and retention of staff</i>	<p>‘Teaching & Learning remains our best leader for addressing the issue of disadvantage.’ – Marc Rowland. (Deputy Director of the National Education Trust and recognised national expert on the Pupil Premium)</p> <p>High expectations are fundamental in addressing disadvantage. Departments ensure their curriculum is highly challenging.</p> <p>The school have purchased the Walkthrus CPD programme and will design and create a range of CPD clusters in order to ensure all teachers are continually working on and developing their skill in the classroom. This has been shown to have the most impact in reducing attainment gap.</p> <p>‘The best available evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve pupil attainment. Ensuring every teacher is supported in delivering high-quality</p>	1, 2, 5

	<p>teaching is essential to achieving the best outcomes for all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged among them.'</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/support-for-schools/school-planning-support/1-high-quality-teaching</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/production/documents/support-for-schools/bitesize-support/EEF_Attainment_Gap_Report_2018_-_print.pdf?v=1701833986</p> <p><i>What happens in the classroom makes the biggest difference: improving teaching quality generally leads to greater improvements at lower cost than structural changes. There is particularly good evidence around the potential impact of teacher professional development. EEF</i></p> <p>All departments are working on two core walkthrus: Establishing expectations and Cold Calling. These both support our high expectations of all students. They ensure ALL students are fully engaging in lessons and ensuring that all students are performing at their very best, all of the time.</p>													
<p>Focus on developing reading skills within KS3 particularly.</p> <p>Development of literacy across the school</p>	<p>PP students are able to choose a text which they are interested in – the student support team then use mentoring sessions to discuss reading and how it is developing. A range of additional texts are made available to students and they are able to swap with each other. In addition, Year 7 students, including PP students are involved in the Bookbuzz campaign. KS3 curriculum includes a reading session each week, and tutorial sessions also include sessions on reading, especially at KS3.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Yr 7 PP</th><th>Yr 7 non-PP</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GPVS</td><td>100.2</td><td>104.1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reading</td><td>100.2</td><td>104.4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Maths</td><td>99.27</td><td>102.8</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Word of the week / continual vocabulary extension has been a focus this academic year and will continue to be embedded across all Key stages.</p> <p>Word of the week has been piloted in Year 7 in 2021, and broadened to include Yr 7 and 8 in Sept 2022. This continues to be a focus during personal development lessons.</p> <p>Focusing on language is very important – It allows teachers to think carefully about curriculum and language equity. Focusing on vocab development allows all students to access all of the curriculum. During tutorial time, staff deliver a key Word of the Week to students. Staff read the word and discuss its meaning. Students can then attempt to use the word in a sentence of their own or attempt some of the activities on the second slide.</p> <p>All staff feature that word in their teaching for that week and in following weeks to consolidate understanding.</p> <p>This supports development of vocabulary across all curriculum areas, and aims to close the vocabulary gap in KS3, developing literacy and understanding of words.</p>		Yr 7 PP	Yr 7 non-PP	GPVS	100.2	104.1	Reading	100.2	104.4	Maths	99.27	102.8	1, 5
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	<p>'Literacy is fundamental for success in school and later life. Students who cannot read, write and communicate effectively are highly unlikely to access the challenging academic curriculum in secondary school and are more likely to have poor educational outcomes across all subjects.' EEF</p> <p>https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/eef-guidance-reports/literacy-ks3-ks4/EEF_KS3_KS4_LITERACY_GUIDANCE.pdf?v=1670402473</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/literacy-ks3-ks4</p> <p>https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/socio-economic-attainment-gap-remains-stubbornly-wide-after-pandemic-with-reading-skills-particularly-affected</p> <p>We have purchased Lexia UK licences for our Yr 7 students and are already seeing progress with their literacy.</p> <p>https://www.lexiauk.co.uk/literacy-programs/</p>	
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Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support, structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £ 204,445

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<i>Additional in class support for KS4 classes – focus on those who are identified as Pupil Premium</i>	A proportion of PP funding is used to fund additional in-class support for PP students – this is in Maths, English and Science. Student support officers work with subject specialists in delivering the curriculum and ensuring personalised support is given during lessons and out of lessons	1, 5
<i>Student support classes</i>	These are small group sessions which run alongside timetabled lessons – identified PP students attend these and additional support is given with homework and the revisiting of class tasks.	1, 4, 5
Provision of revision resources for all subjects at KS4, for all PP students	All KS4 Pupil Premium students are provided with revision resources for each subject plus a discussion with a Student Support Officer about how to use these, including assistance with developing a revision timetable and utilising online revision websites. The student support team run googleclassrooms to share information and revision tips with our PP students.	1, 5

<p>Providing individual tuition for PP students (that would be similar to private tuition)</p> <p>Extra support provided and communicated through Googleclassroom</p>	<p>In conjunction with the National Tutoring Programme, private tuition type lessons will be delivered to PP students – this will primarily be delivered by in-house specialists but outside tutors can be sourced. Focus for this will be on English, Maths and Science</p> <p>This is on a needs basis. If individual departments / the Student Support team identify that this is an area that is holding students back, they will tailor a programme to reduce disadvantage.</p> <p>Student support team also run a googleclassroom solely for our PP students. They share information on revision tips, help with homework strategies and more targeted support for individual year groups.</p>	1, 5
<p>Supply of full uniform, including PE kit for all PP students.</p> <p>Supply of all stationery items, including subject specific items at KS4 (such as art folders, DT folders, specialist pens)</p>	<p>Ensure that all PP students are appropriately dressed and are not disadvantaged by economic barriers. Ensures that there are no physical barriers on learning – replacement items are funded during the year, including shoes, which can be expensive. Working in conjunction with a local supplier for uniform, and also providing specialist equipment at KS4 (such as art folders, DT folders, professional art equipment) streamlining the system, with the use of a QR code so that we are able to monitor the uptake of uniform. Funding of necessary equipment ensures that the costs do not prohibit learning. At KS4 students are supported in subjects which they not only enjoy but are also talented in. This creates opportunities for students to achieve their potential. No barriers to learning due to expense.</p>	3, 4, 5
<p>Additional parent contact meetings throughout the year</p> <p>Gathering for core subject information for parents unable to attend parents' evening</p>	<p>Parents of PP students are offered the opportunity for an additional contact point during the year, this is widely used and ensures that a strong relationship is built up between the parents and the student support team. This is vital when looking to triangulate support for an individual Subject specific information is gathered, after parent's evening, for PP students who were unable to attend - this is shared with parents and ensures continued support</p>	4
<p>Career meetings. Ensuring all students have access to independent career service in school</p>	<p>All students in KS4 have a meeting with an independent careers guidance advisor.</p> <p>Notes and issues arising from the meeting are shared with tutor and PP SSO team to inform and drive mentor meeting discussions, especially helpful in targeted support for post 16 pathways</p> <p>https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/careers-leaders/gatsby-benchmarks/</p> <p>https://www.goodcareerguidance.org.uk/case-study/addressing-the-needs-of-each-pupil</p>	4, 5

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £ 71,067

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed																																				
Behaviour and attendance intervention strategies	We will develop a team to focus on improving and maintaining appropriate learning behaviours and attendance for all students. Working alongside the wellbeing strand, the team will identify and deconstruct any barriers individuals have to their learning. The team will also work very closely with families and ensure wider communication.	1,5																																				
Individual mentoring sessions for PP students, after each progress check – across all Year groups	Every PP student will have at least 3 mentoring sessions across the year – these sessions are to review progress made and assess targets for the coming months. This is also an opportunity to review attendance and behaviour issues. It is a valuable opportunity for 1:1 discussions and ensuring that students are engaging with their education, and that any issues are identified and helped to address.	1, 4, 3, 5																																				
<p>Reward, in the form of vouchers, for students who are making progress / have made improvements / have improved attendance</p> <p>Develop reward system / values awards / ambassador programme to ensure it is consistent – especially for PP and SEND students</p> <p>Review of behaviour mgt system to ensure it is consistent and</p>	<p>At each progress check pupils have the opportunity to be rewarded for their progress / attendance and behaviour. The vouchers create an incentive to continue working to achieve their best. Focus on attendance ensures improvements in this area.</p> <p>SSO officers work closely with the PD lead to create and enhance opportunities for PP students to become subjects and values ambassadors. Monitoring to focus on ensuring equity for all in experience and reward.</p> <p>Systems scrutinised in application of rewards as well as sanctions. Monitoring 3 year results for patterns and consistency.</p> <p>SSO have attendance and effort at the heart of monitoring and support meetings. Review of progress in gaps to be reviewed each year.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Year 10</td><td colspan="2">Year 9</td><td colspan="2">Year 8</td><td colspan="2">Year 7</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>PP</td><td>Non PP</td><td>PP</td><td>Non PP</td><td>PP</td><td>Non PP</td><td>PP</td><td>Non PP</td></tr><tr><td>Effort</td><td>3.19</td><td>3.35</td><td>3.13</td><td>3.43</td><td>3.21</td><td>3.45</td><td>3.4</td><td>3.59</td></tr><tr><td>Attendance</td><td>83.81</td><td>93.11</td><td>87.61</td><td>91.98</td><td>86.8</td><td>92.99</td><td>90.92</td><td>95.67</td></tr></table>		Year 10		Year 9		Year 8		Year 7			PP	Non PP	PP	Non PP	PP	Non PP	PP	Non PP	Effort	3.19	3.35	3.13	3.43	3.21	3.45	3.4	3.59	Attendance	83.81	93.11	87.61	91.98	86.8	92.99	90.92	95.67	4, 5
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<p>fair across all student groups</p> <p>Focus on improving attendance and effort for PP students</p>	<p>Effort grades tend to be 0.2 of a grade lower than Non PP students</p> <p>Attendance tends to be 2-3% below Non PP students</p> <p>A proportion of PP funding is used to fund a specific attendance, safeguarding and well-being checks for PP students. Data is reviewed regularly and informs targeted mentoring sessions with the aim to enhance and support engagement and behaviour across the school</p>	<p>3, 4, 5</p>
<p>Providing additional mental health support to PP students</p>	<p>PP funding has been used to fund additional external support for PP students only – this is done on a needs basis – there has been an increased level of anxiety as a result of COVID. Some PP funding is also being used, in conjunction with National tutoring funding to train a person in ELSA – this will then allow increased capacity for early intervention for PP students who are presenting with mental health concerns. We also fund a place with a fully trained counsellor for students who present a need.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Well-being book and App library purchased / signposted in the well-being / Student support area</p>	<p>‘Shelf-Help’ https://readingagency.org.uk/young-people/quick-guides/reading-well/</p> <p>Well-being and SSO will utilise the shelf help library of books and apps during their sessions with students. Parents can also access advice / help in the form of apps and aid discussions with their children.</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>Developing cultural capital within school</p>	<p>Focus on opportunities to enrich the experience of PP students PP students to have 25% of all places on school trips – these are not to be on a first come first served basis – student support officers will manage this process Gym memberships as part of the PP package – for those students who are taking GCSE PE or who are completing D of E Swimming lessons for PP students who are not yet able to swim well or it has been suggested for their wellbeing Magazine subscriptions for PP students – developing literacy skills Music lessons 50% cost for KS3 and 100% for KS4. Approximately 50% of our students accessing peripatetic music lessons are PP students.</p> <p>Enhancing availability of musical instruments for practise at home. Payment for music exams where required.</p> <p>Subject specific opportunities across the school e.g. London Theatre residential trip</p>	<p>3, 4, 5</p>

<p>Increase uptake of PP students at extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>Keep a record of students attending extra-curricular activities Mentoring sessions to include a focus on extracurricular activities Actively encourage departments to think about the proportion of PP students attending extra-curricular activities and to looks at targeting students.</p> <p>Access to wider cultural capital enhancing initiatives such as supporting the Performing arts dept and the school musical. Enhancing opportunities for students to work in theatre groups to rehearse and perform. Access to theatre groups limited in rural Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Working towards the PP pledge (which is now being linked to the newly developed Academy Values) students will maximise their entitlements. If students manage to complete one thing from each Value area, they will receive a Values badge.</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for students to access ambassador programme across all subjects</p>	<p>3, 4, 5</p>
<p>Barriers to learning these priorities address</p>	<p>Confidence of students – opportunities to develop leadership skills, opportunities to work with younger students – links between years – shared experiences Healthy lifestyle – working on developing responsibility for mental and physical wellbeing Extra-curricular activities – broadening experiences which cannot be funded from home D of E – pushing students outside of comfort zone – personal challenges – developing further independence Literacy skills to be further developed Music lessons allow development of skills which then encourage students to join the school band, choir etc – all a part of building self-esteem and confidence and a wider part of ensuring that opportunities for personal development are available to all students Not having the correct equipment can impact on attendance and self-esteem, which both impact on outcomes – the removal of this barrier ensures that all students are able to access the curriculum and are not limited by equipment available Willingness of parents to engage with the Academy – strong relationships make this a far more positive relationship and students are therefore better supported by both home and school</p>	

Total budgeted cost: £ 298,387

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

KS4 Attainment 2023

25 pupils

Attainment 8 (Overall)



4.0

FFT Rank

100 BETTER ► 1

In line with the national average (3.4)



% English & Maths (Grade 4+)

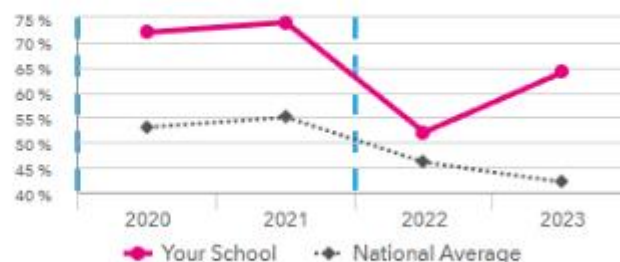


64% +

FFT Rank

100 BETTER ► 1

Significantly above the national average (42%)



The above graphs show KS4 attainment 2023. The number of PP students gaining 4+ in English & Maths (64%) was significantly higher than the National average of 42%.

The overall progress 8 score for our Year 11 PP students in 2023 was -0.29. There has been an improvement on Progress 8 from 2022-2023. The attainment gap in 2022 was -0.72. In 2023 the attainment gap reduced by 0.26 to -0.46.

The overall progress 8 score for our current PP students is -0.16.

Raising attainment in English and Maths remains a focus, supported by focused, small group intervention sessions as part of our recovery programme. Attainment in Eng / Maths at level 5+ is a focus. Maths, English and Science have targeted intervention / support for PP students. Lunchtime intervention as well as use of tutoring has been put in place in order to focus on and continue to close this gap. Our recovery programme focuses on provision of small group focused interventions in English, Maths, Science, MFL and Humanities. Alongside the timetabled small group provision, sessions are also held at both lunchtime and after school.

These are well attended and provide targeted, small group tuition that has been proven to be most effective in raising attainment.

Both reading and spelling scores on entry are lower in our Y7 PP students compared to non-PP. We have a KS3 wide vocabulary builder programme, which runs during tutorial time. This supports development of vocabulary across all curriculum areas, and aims to close the vocabulary gap in KS3, developing literacy and understanding of words.

Regular parental contact and engagement is highly beneficial, and forms a large part of our provision from Student Support Officers. All PP students were provided with a laptop during lockdown, and we have continued that provision where needed.

Effort grades are slightly lower for PP lower across all years, often by around 0.2 of grade. Attendance is significantly lower in PP vs non-PP. This will be an ongoing focus throughout the next 3 years. Effort and attendance are focused upon during regular PP mentoring reviews which are held after each progress check, 3 times a year with every PP student.

Externally provided programmes

Please include the names of any non-DfE programmes that you used your pupil premium (or recovery premium) to fund in the previous academic year.

Programme	Provider
KS3 Intervention & KS4 placement	The Acorn Free School
Lincs Education Partnership. KS4 Curriculum provider.	Alternative Education Services Ltd.

Service pupil premium funding (optional)

*For schools that receive this funding, you may wish to provide the following information: **How our service pupil premium allocation was spent last academic year***

We liaise closely with the welfare team from our local RAF base, and they provide regular support and extra provision in helping us to encourage belonging and community throughout the school.

We have recently introduced Services Breakfasts twice a year for each year group. This is a chance for students to sit down and chat to our student support team, and more importantly – each other, in order for the team to notice and mitigate any issues relating to life in the services.

We provide a weekly community club that students can attend as a space to share, chat, and be with people who understand issues relating to being part of a military family. It is our job to mitigate any feeling of isolation or loneliness within our school community. We use the RAF welfare services to provide training for staff and further understanding of effective use of the services provision.

The lunchtime club develop a rapport with students, and it is safe space to share worries or concerns. Where necessary, staff share any issues or concerns with the Student Support team who then provide individual, targeted help and support and liaise closely with families.

Support and encouragement to access extra-curricular activities.

Access to Student Support officers via open door service as needed, particularly when family members are deployed. Regular contact with home in times of deployment.

Our services students organise and run the selling of poppies and badges on site for The Royal British Legion, and they also represent the school & take the poppy wreath to the memorial each year.

There is a yearly services trip out to sites of local importance eg RAF Bomber Command, Lincoln or RAF East Kirkby.

The impact of that spending on service pupil premium eligible pupils

Student Voice and ensuring a sense of belonging within school. Supporting friendship groups and mitigating any issues of loneliness caused by regular movement due to postings.

Students are making use of revision resources and strategies discussed to engage with the curriculum.

This is shown in positive attitudes, good progress, effort grades and high levels of engagement in extra-curricular activities such as D of E and Clubs

Financial contributions have been provided to some students on request and granted on a case by case basis.