

Darrick Wood School – Transition Summer School – August 2021

As part of the DfE's programme to support wider educational recovery, funding was provided to run a face-to-face Summer School for those children moving into Year 7 in September 2021. The aim of the programme was to deliver a short summer school which offered a blend of academic education and enrichment activities with a focus on literacy and numeracy.

Our Summer School ran every day from 9.00am to 2.45pm from Monday, 16th August to Friday, 20th August inclusive. A place was offered to all 271 students in our new Year 7 cohort. Information about the Summer School and how to sign up was shared via email and promoted during transition visits to Primary Schools and our on-site induction days in July. All activities were offered free of charge and all students attending were provided with a free lunch and drinks each day.

Activities on offer

The Summer School day was structured to provide sessions of academic education (primarily but not exclusively focusing on literacy and numeracy), enrichment activities, social time with peers and the opportunity to meet Year 7 pastoral staff.

Academic and enrichment sessions were 90 minutes long and covered a range of topics including:

- Making a "stomp rocket"
- Flame tests with Bunsen burners
- Science investigations
- Picture editing
- Football and fitness skills
- Dance and Drama
- Cooking
- Solving riddles
- Literacy activities
- Creating a broadcast
- Introduction to languages
- Arts and crafts
- History and Geography

The Summer School was staffed by members of SLT with a DSL on duty every day, Year 7 pastoral staff, school teaching staff, Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). Staff from the Hearing Impaired Unit also supported in class. To ensure the smooth running of the Summer School, school administration staff, including science technicians, were also on hand as were some of our catering staff. HLTAs and LSAs supported students with Education and Health Care Plans and additional education needs to access the learning activities.

Attendance and feedback

All 271 students expected on roll in Year 7 were offered a place at the Summer School and 213 students attended for at least one day, this total included 79% of those students eligible for the Pupil Premium. On the final day, we asked students to complete a brief feedback form on their experiences during the week and some comments are included below:

"I am looking forward to everything [at Darrick Wood in September], I feel more confident now that I've met new friends and have seen the new place."

"[At Summer School] I enjoyed all the Science lessons, learning a lot and using different equipment."

"I loved all the lessons and the teachers were nice"

"I have enjoyed the different lessons and making new friends"

"Everything was an incredible experience"

"I was kind of worried about where to go for lessons and stuff, now I know where it all is"

"I enjoyed getting to go and have fun lessons and spending time with friends"

Feedback from parents/carers was that the Summer School had gone well, their children had enjoyed it and that they appreciated the opportunity to meet the teachers and other children.

Funding

The majority of our funding was spent on staff to run the Summer School with an emphasis on ensuring that students were in small teaching groups (generally between 10 and 15 students) and that those students with additional needs were supported in class and at social times as needed.

The breakdown of funding was as follows:

Staffing costs (including on costs)	£54,507.53p
Catering	£4,228.93p
Resources	£1,802.71p
Cleaning (additional)	£350.00p
Total	£60,889.17p