

Lincoln Castle Academy



3rd November 2020

Dear Year 8 Parents and Carers,

Year 8 Catch-up Programme

Children and young people across the country have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). The government has announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. In reality, this equates to £80 per child.

At Lincoln Castle Academy we have used the government recommended, 'COVID-19 Support Guide for Schools' published by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to identify the best strategies, based on long term research, that will enable us to achieve the most positive outcomes. In addition to the high-quality teaching and learning and raft of support that we offer as a matter of course in our academy we are using our tutor time to enhance catch-up learning for any gaps from the last academic year. In September we began with our 'Recovery Curriculum', designed to get students back into the routines of being in school and opportunities to talk and discuss how the world had changed during their time away from school. We now move into Phase 1 of the Catch-up Programme, intended to ensure solid foundations of learning for all students. Please see below the programme that the Year 8 tutor groups will all be following this half term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.40 - 9.00	TUTOR TIME ROUTINES	ASSEMBLY	READING	SCIENCE Catch - up	NUMERACY Catch-up
9.00 - 9.25	SCIENCE Catch- up	NUMERACY Catch-up	ASPIRE	LITERACY Catch-up	ASPIRE

As we need to ensure that there are no learning gaps from Year 7, we are following the CGP Catch-up package. As all students had different experiences of their time working from home, we are aware that there will be some students with no or very small gaps, and that there will be others who have larger gaps. This then helps our subject specific staff plan for their Year 8 teaching to incorporate this. There are stretch and challenge materials available to those who need them. Please see the detail in the attached document, which has been issued to all Year 8 students and is kept in school.

In addition, the attached document also makes reference to 'Enrichment'. This is what we call our after-school clubs. All Year 8 students are invited to attend and these will start from 9th November. If students would like to join any of the sessions, they need to tell their form tutor who will book them in. Our offer is much smaller than usual and this is due to not being able to mix 'bubbles'. Any Year 8 who is participating in an after school activity, will need to wait in the Year 8 area for collection by the subject specific teacher. For some of the activities, students will move to the

subject department, for example Science Club, where the facilities will have been wiped down and cleaned ready for their use.

As you will see from the attached document, the areas for Numeracy, Literacy and Science catch-up have been planned and you can see the topics we intend to cover up to Christmas. The Year 8 reading book of 'Black Cats and Butlers' by Janine Beacham, has been chosen by our Accelerated Reader Co-ordinator and will be used in tutor time only for silent reading, group reading and discussion. Students still need to bring a separate reading book to school every day of their own choice.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support in completing the Year 7 into 8 'Getting Ready' booklet and all other associated materials, students have been rewarded through our rewards system accordingly. It has set them up incredibly well for learning and the curriculum so far. The Year 8s have shown great resilience and determination in what has been a strange but smooth transition back to school.

I will write to you again in later in the term to explain how we are using more specific, targeted interventions for your child, based on teacher assessments.

Yours sincerely

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Key Stage 3 Progress Lead

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Attached: Year 8 Catch-up Programme Term 2 Student Booklet