

Summer steps report for school website

Bottisham VC Summer Steps

DFE Summer school provision

The aim of the funded programme, drawing on the evidence of good practice, was to deliver a short summer school, offering a blend of academic education and enrichment activities, to pupils identified by the school as being most in need of educational recovery and/or wellbeing support.

Summer school provided an opportunity for:

- pupils to recover missed learning and development
- improved physical and mental health, wellbeing and education engagement of pupils
- support of disadvantaged and vulnerable children
- year 7 pupils to build a community with their fellow pupils, forge relationships with new teachers and familiarise themselves with their new school

Funding was allocated on the basis of student take up; £59.70 per student.

At Bottisham VC, the 'Summer steps' programme was planned in accordance with the above criteria as a springboard to support pupils with the start of term in September; providing children within our community (incoming year 7, current year 7 and year 8) the opportunity to build positive relationships with staff, members of our student leadership team and other students, and to develop confidence, communication, resilience and social skills.

168 students were identified as eligible and invited to attend during the week 23rd – 27th August Bottisham VC, for 5 days. 59 students attended.

Students were grouped into five small groups and followed a timetable, with the day split into three sessions (including catered breakfast, break and lunch) of different activities, underpinned by the following themes:

English literacy & literature, Numeracy, Languages, Teamwork & problem solving, Science, Sports, Musical theatre, Transition & Leadership.

All activity sessions were delivered and supported by college teaching staff, teaching assistants, our librarian, administrative staff and our year 11 student leadership team members.

All costs incurred were based on staffing.

At the beginning of the week we set out to foster a sense of community, and reduce anxieties surrounding starting or returning to school; as the week progressed students grew in confidence and it was clear to see we clearly had a positive impact on both students and parents, and they were looking forward to the start of term.

A few of the many responses highlighting this from the reflection sheets filled in by the students

How were you feeling before coming into school this week for Summer Steps?

- *Very anxious, felt like I wouldn't make any friends. Turns out its fine and I made a lot of friends.*
- *Worried, anxious, scared*
- *I felt nervous I didn't want to go*
- *I didn't want to go*

How are you feeling after the week?

- *Turns out its fine and I made a lot of friends.*
- *Relaxed, happy, safe, confident*
- *I am feeling that I am a part of the school*
- *I feel happy because it was fun*
- *I feel relieved and better. I didn't think I would enjoy it but I did*

Outside of the sessions what did you enjoy most about the week?

- *That I made friends and got to meet new teachers*
- *Making new friends*