

Closing the gap project on attainment of PPG2 students GCSE 9-5

Background to the 'Closing the gap' project

- School Improvement Strategy identified three key groups of focus for the year – this included PPG2 students
- Ofsted report 2013 identified that the gap in attainment between PPG students and others was narrowing at a good rate but a few, small differences in the achievement of different groups of students or across different subjects remained.
- IDSR suggested that disadvantaged students were performing 10% below the national average for English Language 4+ (9-5) and 23% below the national average for English Literature 4+ (9-5)

Relevant Research and Reading

- <https://www.samlearning.com/closing-gap-disadvantaged-pupils/>
- Sharples et al (2011) Effective classroom strategies for closing the gap in educational achievement for children and young people living in poverty, including white working-class boys
- David Laws speech on 'closing the achievement gap' 5th March 2013:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/closing-the-achievement-gap>
- Alex Quigley: Closing The Vocabulary Gap (2018)

Key project activities

- Identify PPG2 students in classes and ensure that staff know those students. Mark their books first.
- Identify students in class that are PPG2 – ask staff to tell us who they will make the most difference with. What intervention strategies will they use to ensure good progress is made? Report this and KS4 c/o to monitor and check intervention strategies are working/successful
- Invite PPG2 students on a trip to Macbeth
- Parent information evening-how parents can help their children achieve – involving parents
- Resources put on L Drive and computers made available for PPG2 students if they needed them for revision purposes
- Extra revision sessions with PPG2 students personally invited

Impact of 'closing the gap' project

- Ofsted report 2018 states that current progress of disadvantaged pupils has improved overall, particularly in English.
- Ofsted report 2018 states that 'current children who are looked after are achieving better than previously.'
- Summer 2018 results show improvement in performance – 58% of PPG2 students achieving 4+ in Language and 4% achieving 7+
- 68% achieving 4+ in Literature (increase of 32%).
- Mock results demonstrate improvement in results for Macbeth assessment after seeing the play via invitation
- Intervention strategy for PPG2 to continue with KS4 c/o monitoring which students we can make the most difference with and what successful strategies staff are using
- Continue to invite PPG2 students to performances