

Pupil Premium Strategy

2018-2019

At Darton Academy we believe the biggest barriers to learning for our disadvantaged students are:

- Low aspirations resulting from a lack of ambition and family history of further education.
- Lack of support in key subject areas for example low reading ages from a lack of early reading opportunities.
- Few disadvantaged students leaving and attending sixth form colleges and then going on to higher education.
- Lack of resources and opportunities to develop themselves further outside the curriculum.

We are determined to create a climate that does not limit an individual's potential in any way. We have a high number (27%) of students who are identified as 'disadvantaged' and consequently, eligible for 'Pupil Premium' funding. Our strategy is initially to ensure all our students, especially our disadvantaged students attend well. Extra resources are directed at staff and key students are targeted to make the attendance of our disadvantaged similar if not higher than our non-disadvantaged students. As a number of our disadvantaged students start secondary school with lower academic attainment than their non-disadvantaged peers we ensure they receive intense support to fill any gaps in their progress. This support and intervention is bespoke and evidence based. This support is targeted towards English and Maths and diminishing the difference between disadvantaged and other students nationally. Students social and emotional needs are also identified early as a potential barrier to learning and progress and again depending on need special programs are designed with our pastoral staff to break down these barriers and allow students to enjoy the curriculum. Together with the academic and pastoral support we offer our disadvantaged students there is also a whole range of further interventions and support. These range from helping students enjoy and experience the 'arts' through music lessons and tuition, support with funding for trips, breakfast clubs provision, alternative provision for students whose needs are more complex and extra resources across the whole range of subjects as and when they are needed.