



Eckington School

All students leave with a wide body of **knowledge/ skills** and a **strength of character** so they are best equipped for what comes next, and can live an exceptional life.



Love for learning

Thirst for knowledge; strive for our best; build in character; seek new experiences; share our successes



Be resilient

Believe we can improve; growth mindset; learn from mistakes; practice leads to progress



Value everyone

Treat everyone with respect and kindness; celebrate our differences; build friendships



High expectations

Always the highest standards; be ambitious; aim high; reach our potential



Lead by example

Act with honesty; deliver on promises; be responsible for our actions; support our community

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

OCTOBER 2021



Why did we decide to hold a summer school at Eckington School?

Research estimates that in the first half term of autumn 2020, young people in key stage 2 and 3 were around 1.6 to 2 months behind on reading and around 3.2 months behind on their maths. Anecdotal evidence also points to children and young people's mental health having suffered during lockdown and from periods of individual and class isolation.

We wanted to support some of our incoming year 7 students and a small number of our year 7s who were going into year 8, to help them make up time on their missed learning. We also wanted to bring broader benefits to the families and community by supporting our young people make a successful transition to secondary school, to help with mental health and well-being and to help the youngsters engage better with their education.

What were the aims of our programme?

- To support students academically and pastorally in the transition from Year 6 to Year 7.
- To prevent a 'slide' in the retention of skills and knowledge, particularly in English and mathematics, that can occur between Year 6 and 7.
- To support students 'well-being through enrichment opportunities.
- To build a community and create a team/school culture.
- To help students forge relationships and friendships with other year 6 students, and with some of their new teachers.
- To increase the cultural capital and cultural awareness of the students.
- To build the confidence and social skills of the students through team working and leadership activities.
- To provide 'fun' activities, and to create lifelong memories for the students.
- To allow teachers to get to know and gain a better understanding of the new cohort of Year 7.

When did our summer school take place?

Our summer school took place over the course of two weeks in the middle of the summer holidays:

- WB. 9th August 2021
- WB 16th August 2021.

What funding did we receive?

We were eligible for £59.70 of funding, per student per day they attended. This means that we have access to a total of £26,566,50 for the 2-week period.

How did we use the funding?

The majority of funds that we used were to pay for staffing costs, to be able to run the Summer School, including teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. We also use funds to hire in outside services and specific activities, such as circus skills performers, a book illustrator and author, an inflatable assault course, and a poet.



How many students attended?

A total of 79 attended the summer school for at least one day, with many attending for the entire two weeks. The majority of students were incoming Year 6s, with several current Year 7 students, and a small number from other year groups including year 10 and year 12. Numbers on each day ranged from 30 students to upwards of 60 students.

What activities did students do over the course of the two weeks?

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Visiting poet
- Visiting author and illustrator
- Team games
- Music
- Cooking
- Spanish
- Science
- Art
- Circus Skills
- Assault Course
- Team building activities
- Orienteering activities to 'get to know' the school site.

The programme did focus support on English and mathematics to make it easier for students to access the secondary curriculum. However, the programme was about much more than this. The summer school gave students an opportunity to meet new people and make friends, and to develop some of the cultural capital they have lost out on during lockdown.

What was the feedback about the summer school?

From Parents:

1. 100% satisfied or better with the Summer School programme
2. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that Summer School helped their child to make new friends
3. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that summer school helped to familiarise their child with the school buildings etc
4. 100% agreed or strongly agreed that Summer School helped build confidence and social skills
5. 100% would recommend the summer school to others (see feedback below):

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE SUMMER SCHOOL TO OTHERS?

Think it was very beneficial especially as we were unable to look round the school etc due to covid. It helped the children become familiar with the school/teachers and took away a lot of the anxieties with starting a new school



Yes because it gives the children chance to make new friends from different schools/classes and years.

Main aims were for Dylan to familiarise himself with the school and meet new people.

It's a fantastic opportunity for children to get to experience that side of school and to get a head start meeting teachers, seeing the school and building new friendships.

Built confidence, he didn't have first day nerves, familiar faces and enjoyed the two weeks.

My son loved summer school with was quite a revelation. It allayed all our fears, but I must admit I did wonder if it might lull him into a false sense of security when starting in September. It hadn't and he's enjoying school.

It helped build my children's confidence and get to know others before starting.

It really helped my child get prepared for starting school in September. Reduced anxieties, gave her confidence and made her excited about starting school.

It was a great opportunity for my daughter to familiarise herself with the school, meet some of the staff and make new friends in a relaxed environment.

Great idea any time but more so last two years. Familiarises them to the school, teachers and meeting new friends

My child felt more confident starting in year 7 in September as she was a bit more aware of her surroundings. She made many new friends, some of whom were in her form. It also gave them something to do during the holidays different to the usual family and friends activities.

Emma is normally quite a shy person and was very nervous about moving to Eckington School. The summer school was really helpful in helping address any fears and giving her confidence ahead of moving to the school. She absolutely loved the whole week period.

Its a great opportunity for children to familiarise themselves with the school.

Really positive experience Both my daughters have attended this A great idea

Fantastic opportunity to meet new friends and have a smooth transition.