

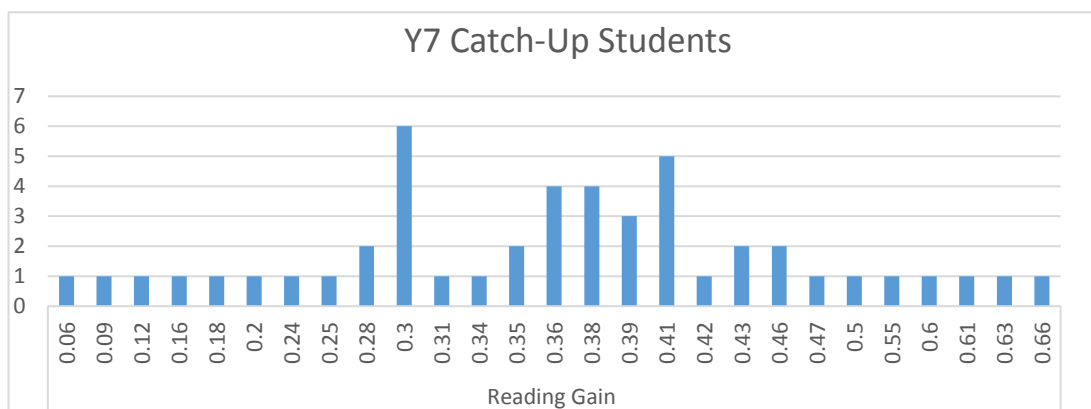
# Literacy Catch-Up Programme

## 2016-17

Analysis of Reading Ages showed literacy to be a whole school area for development. Students chosen for the Catch-Up programme had KS2 GPS scores around or below 100. 50 students in Year 7 were therefore given additional periods on their timetable to support their literacy development. Students were timetabled to study one language instead of two, thus allowing two extra lessons of literacy per week. In the first term, students had reading and writing skills support with members of the English Faculty, following SoLs that targeted basic literacy skills.

In January the school purchased the Successmaker Programme - an adaptive literacy intervention scheme that supports children who have fallen behind in reading - and invested in training for all TAs. To ensure that all students could make progress, the Catch-Up funding was used to invest in headsets and improvements in ICT facilities to enable even the weakest readers to access the programme through audio support. All groups were also double-staffed with an English teacher and a TA, and students were required to “repeat” exercises until they had mastered a range of key skills which ensured they had secured the basics before moving on to more challenging material.

Students who enter secondary school with below-average reading ages, struggle to progress alongside their peers as teachers’ efforts are often targeted at ensuring they access the curriculum rather than improving their reading skills. However all of our Year 7 students made gains in their reading ages, and on average, students made improvements of 3.5 months in the two terms that the programme ran. *See the graph below.*



However while students made good progress on the Successmaker programme, we felt that they could achieve even more. Monitoring of students’ responses suggested that direct teaching with specialised SoLs would be more beneficial.

## 2017-18

Current Year 7 Catch-Up students follow an adapted timetable with three literacy lessons per fortnight; “literacy-heavy” subjects such as Humanities and MFL are reduced to enable students to focus on developing basic skills.

- Students follow SoLs linked to the new GCSE English and English Literature specifications and aimed at developing key reading and writing skills which support their learning and progress across the curriculum.
- All Catch-Up students read to a teacher for 15 minutes during DEAR time once a fortnight.
- Catch-Up students were invited to the Summer School for additional support with Literacy and Numeracy, and the Pupil Premium was used to subsidise places for disadvantaged students
- Spelling Ages are tracked each half-term to monitor progress.
- Reading Age tests were completed in July 2017 by all incoming Year 7 and Catch-Up students will be retested in July 2018 to assess progress.

<b>2017-18 Y7 Catch-Up Premium: £15,000 of which 85% is to be used on staffing strategies leaving £2,250</b>	
Summer School	£150
NGRT Reading Age Tests	£1600
Education materials and software	£500