

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: The Duston School's Approach to Inclusion; Pupil Premium Support

Further to my letter last week detailing our approaches to inclusion, where I focused on what we do for SEND, I am now writing to you to remind you of our holistic approach to Pupil Premium.

At The Duston School, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of background. Our Pupil Premium (PP) strategy is designed to remove barriers to learning and ensure that disadvantaged pupils thrive alongside their peers.

What is Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is additional government funding aimed at improving outcomes for pupils who may face disadvantage. We use this funding to strengthen teaching, provide targeted support, and widen opportunities for all.

The Duston School's Pupil Premium approach is built upon the following ethos:

'Our core aim is to remove barriers to learning to support the pupils who attend The Duston School to climb the tree of knowledge so they can access University, Higher Education, employment or an Apprenticeship and be the very best edit of themselves.'

All students are inspired to Dream – Believe – Achieve

The Pupil Premium Funding Statement 2025–26 for The Duston School, which can be found on our website [here](#), outlines a comprehensive strategy to support disadvantaged pupils through targeted interventions.

The school has identified six key challenges:

- Challenge 1: Lower levels of literacy and numeracy levels upon entry.
- Challenge 2: Lower attainment outcomes in comparison to non-disadvantaged pupils.
- Challenge 3: Higher levels of student and parental disengagement
- Challenge 4: Lower attendance rates.
- Challenge 5: Lack of cultural capital.
- Challenge 6: Higher levels of mental health concerns.

Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
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Our Approach to Pupil Premium includes:

- **High-Quality Teaching:** We invest in staff training and development to ensure excellent teaching for every pupil.
- **Targeted Support:** Extra help is offered in literacy, numeracy and key subjects, including small group sessions and one-to-one interventions. This includes **Direct Instruction** in English and Maths for identified pupils in Years 7–9, providing structured lessons to accelerate progress.
- **Attendance:** We work closely with families to improve attendance through clear procedures, home visits, and personalised support.
- **Wellbeing:** Our Positive Impact Centre offers mental health support, counselling, and pastoral care to ensure pupils feel safe and supported.
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** We fund trips, clubs and cultural experiences so all pupils can access the same opportunities.
- **Raising Aspirations:** Careers guidance and mentoring help pupils plan for their future.

Pupil Premium Package:

All pupils who are identified as Pupil Premium receive a ring-fenced amount between £80 - £100 (key stage dependent) to spend upon the following:

- School uniform – This will be provided as a voucher or prior authorisation for reimbursement.
- Subject specific equipment e.g. catering supplies.
- Support in accessing extra-curricular school clubs / holiday clubs.
- Support towards swimming lessons with an affiliated provider.
- Books / revision guides to support learning and reading for pleasure.
- Support towards in-school peripatetic music lessons.

Our Goals:

- Narrow the attainment gap in all subjects and most notably in English, Maths, and Science.
- Improve pupil reading ages, coupled with their literacy skills (most notably comprehension, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar).
- Increase pupil proficiency in numeracy.
- Increase attendance and engagement.
- Support wellbeing and mental health.
- Ensure equal access to enrichment activities.

As part of our on-going drive to support the outcomes of all pupils the school is launching a Focus 3 approach at Key Stage 4, whereby subject teachers will be picking three key pupils

from their Key Stage 4 classes to provide key pupils with targeted support, advice and guidance.

As a school we have endless data sets which clearly show that Pupil Premium pupils who have 95% attendance to school or more, and more so at Key Stage 4, go on to achieve almost one grade higher than their initial target grades. I actively encourage you to support your child to routinely attend school and engage with their learning.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Strickland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Strickland
Principal/CEO