

Improving Attainment in West Norfolk

Review of 2019

Becky Box, Assistant Director Central Services

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Overall Aim of Programme

To ensure that all young people in West Norfolk receive a good quality education through excellent teaching and learning, and go on to achieve the best level of qualification they can.

Priorities

Since 2016 the key priorities have been:

- Actions to improve attainment in Maths and English
- Initiatives to support transition, particularly from Y6 to Y7
- Raising the aspirations of higher achieving students
- Improved engagement with schools – particularly primary schools
- Support to help schools respond to mental health issues



Attainment in Maths and English

PiXL Funding

- Originally for Secondary Schools
- Extended to Primary Schools in 2016
- 2018/19 year 17 Primary Schools accessed funding – this increased to 31 during 2019/20



Attainment - Use of PiXL

“As a school we have benefitted hugely from PiXL since September 2018. Our staff have used a multitude of resources in order to aid their children’s learning. We have found the assessment system extremely beneficial – it is very helpful to see where our school ‘sits’ in comparison to other schools and their year groups. Furthermore, the Year 6 resources such as the maths and reading ‘3 in 3s’ have been great resources to prepare the pupils for their SATs. We would, without a shadow of a doubt, recommend PiXL to other schools in the future.”

Jonathon Parrish, Assistant Principal, Emneth Primary School



Attainment - Use of PiXL

Southery Primary Academy:

- KS2 intervention resources: This has been our main source of intervention tools to support all KS2 children, not just year 6, with their Maths, Reading, and Writing. This has been used in class, small groups and also 1:1 sessions, Easter revision for year 6.
- Holiday challenges: Used with year 6 for half terms and Easter - this provided all the children with 15 minutes of Maths and Reading a day to keep their brains 'ticking over'.
- KS1 resources to support Reading and Maths - not just for preparation for SATs but used in recap work, ensuring understanding.
- KS1 and KS2 assessment - this includes past papers and PiXL style exam papers.
- Attendance at the main meetings - this includes tips, advice, and support as well as breakout sessions for sharing good practice.
- I have also met with a PiXL representative and he has been incredibly supportive, especially with my transition from secondary to primary.

Barney Rimmer, Head Teacher



Attainment - Interventions to Support GCSEs

Maths Booster Conference

Teachers said:

- The format is good, I liked the building blocks, starting with how to break the sum down, this will really help the student's back at school
- Really good I will use some of these techniques in my teaching

Students said:

- The top tips were good; especially 'check that you have read the question properly' it easy to speed read and get it wrong
- I learnt to show the 'workings out' as this helps to boost your points



Attainment - Interventions to Support GCSEs

Live Performances of Plays

- Macbeth – mix of Yr10 and Yr11 students – approximately 1,700 in past year
- Christmas Carol – approximately 1,500 students have attended

Attainment - Reading and Writing at Primary Level

Primary School Projects

- St Martha's –Bringing Shakespeare to Life for Primary Age children (Year 5)
- St Michael's – Introduction to bar modelling at KS2



Attainment - Disadvantaged Pupils

- Shakespeare Plays
- Poetry Live
- Whitefriars – Sensory project



Transition - Midsummer Night's Dream

- Working with Secondary and Primary Schools
- Aim - as many Year 6 students as possible to attend a performance of Midsummers Night Dream at a secondary school during July 2019
- 7 secondary schools participated
- Over 1,000 Yr 5 and Yr 6 students attended



Transition Project - The Set



The Cast



The Workshops



Partnership promotes theatre



Taste of the Bard for schoolchildren

Pupils from three West Norfolk primary schools have been enjoying a Shakespearean experience following a partnership between borough council leaders and education officials.

Youngsters from the Whitefriars, Eastgate and North Wootton primaries attended a professional performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the King Edward VII (KES) Academy.

That was followed by a number of workshops on acting, singing, dance, prop making, costumes and puppetry.

The performance was funded by West Norfolk Council as part of its partnership with schools through the West Norfolk Improving Attainment Steering Group.

KES is the first secondary to host a performance to feeder primary students, although officials say that other similar sessions are planned.

Kevin Blakey, KES director of secondary education, said: "We are delighted to collaborate with the borough council to enable this experience for students."

Principal Sarah Hartshorn added: "It was wonderful to see so many of our soon-to-be Year 7s on site enjoying the experience." Picture: SUBMITTED



Raising Aspirations - West Norfolk University Challenge Conference 20

- CWA University Centre
- 7 schools participated
- 120 students attended
- Mixed teams (total of 16 teams)
- Aimed at high achievers
- Inspirational speakers



WNUCC20

12 yourlocalpaper Friday, Jan

Top achievers compete in university challenge

More than a hundred top performing school pupils took part in an annual competition designed to boost exam results and inspire young people.

Year 11 students, aged 15 and 16, from seven secondary schools competed in a series of activities during the West Norfolk University Challenge on Friday.

It was hosted by the University Centre at the College of West Anglia and gave the students an opportunity to push each other in a range of subjects, helping to build their confidence and inspire them to achieve even better GCSE results.

The challenge was designed to stretch pupils in the top ten per cent of their schools while giving them a taste of higher education in a university setting.

Inspirational speakers including Tim Edwards, assistant chief fire officer at Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, also gave insight into their lives and careers.

The pupils were put into mixed teams of six named after UK universities and West Norfolk schools taking part were King's Lynn Academy, Lynn's King Edward VII Academy and Springwood High School, Ieni Academy in Swaffham, Marshland High in West Walton, St. Clement's High in Terrington St Clement, and Smithdon High in Hunstanton.



West Norfolk Mayor and Mayoress Geoff and Rose Hipperson with the winning teams at the West Norfolk University Challenge. Picture: Paul Tibbs

Raising Aspirations - Job/Career Opportunities

- Futures Go Live!
 - 4th April 2019, Lynnsport
 - For all secondary schools in West Norfolk
 - Next event 28th April 2020 at Lynnsport
- Attendance at various school specific events



Engagement with Schools

- Continuation of Improving Attainment Steering Group and Primary Heads Network
- Support for ‘cultural capital’ for primary schools
 - ‘Pearls from the Grit’ play
 - King’s Lynn scroll play
- Museums of the future - Coding and Micro: bits



Engagement with Schools



Mental Health Training

- June 2019 - Mental Health First Aid (Youth) course – 10 teachers trained
- March 2020 – course fully booked (15 delegates)
- Waiting list for next course!

Mental Health Training



- Feedback:
 - “I just want to thank you for organising a really useful course. Probably the best Youth mental health course I have attended.”
 - “The course was fantastic and I truly believe that every school should have a designated person for Mental Health. It will give me more confidence when dealing with complex and every day cases of mental health, which seem to be on the increase.”



Priorities for 20/21

- Review current priorities in light of new corporate Business Plan
 - “**4. Improving social mobility and inclusion**
 - Work with partners to improve education attainment levels and the skills of local people.”
- Increased focus on skills
- Key transition periods: into school; from primary to secondary; from secondary into work



Any Questions?