

Summer School 2021

We took part in the Department for Education Summer School programme during the first week of the Summer holiday. Our aim was to provide an opportunity for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2021 to enjoy a range of activities that would support their catch up from Covid lockdowns, as well as supplement their transition to secondary school.

Our key objectives for the week were:

- **Numeracy** – to increase confidence in number structures, bonds and coding in readiness for the Year 7 curriculum
- **Literacy** – to expose children to new words and concepts using St Robert's teaching and learning techniques through reading and discussion. Pupils also visited the library and spent time completing a book review.
- **Teamwork** – to recognise that team work and social skills may have been lost during the recent lockdowns, and to create an environment to support the rebuilding of these skills. Pupils worked in a variety of different situations, with a variety of different students. Students worked on their confidence, resilience, communication and teamwork skills.
- **Well-being** – to promote the benefits of the Pastoral system within our school, and to demonstrate the support structures that are available to facilitate transition. Students met key pastoral staff and were given tours of the school. Their achievements were celebrated at the end of the week.
- **Outdoor Activities** – to give every pupil the opportunity to spend time outdoors, structured and unstructured, allowing them to have a safe space to exercise and to explore the natural environment. Pupils played a variety of games and spent at least 2 hours a day outside.
- **School Routines** – to familiarise pupils with school routines and behaviour expectations. Morning, lunch and end of school routines were rehearsed.

All students who were due to start in Year 7 in September 2021 were invited and 160 students joined us over the week of Monday 19th – Friday 23rd July 2021, from 9am until 2pm each day.

Students were welcomed to tour the school to familiarise themselves with key areas of the school for their learning and pastoral experience. They participated in a range of activities including English and Reading, Maths, Art, IT and Spanish. They also enjoyed their chosen activity of Sport, Dance and Trampolining. All activities were underpinned with the school motto of 'Let your light shine' to afford the children the opportunity to personally develop as part of the family of St Robert's and participate as a team member as well as support their learning development.

On each day of the Summer School students received a full packed lunch which they were able to enjoy in our outdoor dining area. We catered to all dietary requirements and ensured students had plenty of water, we were also able to provide some ice lollies on the warmest days!

Funding was provided for the Summer School by the Department for Education. We received £59.50 per student, per day to run the event, which was spent as follows:

ITEM	COST
Staff costs	£7, 723.65
Catering staff	£864.27
Lunches	£2,324.00
Water	£200.00
Running costs	£4, 596
Curriculum resources	£5,629.75
	£21, 337.67

Students and staff had a most enjoyable week and we believe that the Summer School was successful in allowing the students to experience life at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College as they prepare to 'let their light shine'.