

Overview

The Birley Academy summer school was open to all Y6 students from the feeder primary schools. We had the capacity to offer 160 places over two weeks at the beginning of the summer holidays. The aim of the summer school was to provide students with the opportunity to catch up on some of the learning that had been missed due to lockdown and to also to support with the transition from primary school to secondary school.

Places were offered to students for week one which ran from Thursday 22nd July until Wednesday 28th July, weekdays only, and then a second group of students to attend week 2 from Thursday 29th July until Wednesday 4th August.

The summer school was staffed by teachers and support staff from The Birley Academy. Staff were allocated to named groups of students and went to the different activities with them unless they were personally leading sessions. The summer school activities and lessons were planned by members of The Birley Academy teaching staff along with external providers. The summer school was coordinated by a member of teaching staff with support from a member of the Senior Leadership Team, finance and admin staff.

Every morning students started with a group breakfast in the canteen before all taking part in a literacy and numeracy session. Students then had an organised timetable of activities that they participated in throughout the day. Students were also provided with a cold lunch.

The ethos of our Summer School was for the students to build relationships with each other and the staff, and to build resilience by being together and navigating around the building. Core skills were covered in the classroom lessons each morning and all students had an opportunity to learn in each activity.

Activities

In the core subjects of Numeracy and Literacy, sessions were focused on the understanding of key skills required at an introductory level for secondary education. These included mental strategies, times tables and key skills in Numeracy along with creative writing and reading in Literacy.

Students then experienced a wide variety of other activities that were designed to focus on the students development in team work, resilience and providing them the opportunity to experience something new. We embedded the core values that run within the academy of Lead, Empower, Achieve and Drive.

Activities the student's experienced were:

- African Drumming
- Samba Drumming
- Sculpture creation using concrete
- Climbing wall
- Orienteering
- Cooking
- Yoga
- Drama

- Woodwork
- Sports
- Team building
- First Aid
- Inflatable obstacle course

Students had a wide variety of physical activities, hands on activities, independent and collaborative activities which meant for a positive experience for all participants.

Impact

Through student voice we found that students felt more confident about starting secondary school after participating in summer school. They welcomed the opportunity to meet some of the staff and get to know students from other schools. They were now more familiar with the school building and felt that it had removed some of the preconceived ideas of what that would be like. They also reported that being given the opportunity to participate in so many different activities had given them a lot of enjoyment and gratitude after being denied this for so long during lockdown. They had also been given an introduction to the key areas of their subjects which also provided a boost in confidence when start at The Birley Academy in September. Year 7 have made a positive start to their time at Birley and this is in part down to summer school that many of the students attended.

Attendance

Thursday 22 nd July	76	Thursday 29 th July	73
Friday 23 rd July	74	Friday 30 th July	73
Monday 26 th July	73	Monday 2 nd August	115
Tuesday 27 th July	84	Tuesday 3 rd August	75
Wednesday 28 th July	89	Wednesday 4 th August	74

Finance

Resources	£11,914.14
Food	£1326.68
Staffing Costs	£18,462.00
Total	£31,702.82