

16-19 Tuition Fund Public Statement

The 16-19 Tuition Fund

The UK Government has provided additional funding to Further Education colleges, for the 2021/2022 academic year, to help students catch up on any learning they may have missed due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At St Helens College and Knowsley Community College we are committed to providing high quality, face-to-face or online support for students on 16-19 Study Programmes. Eligibility for support is identified by the following criteria:

1. Students who have not achieved GCSE Grade 5, or above, in either English or maths by the age of 16;
2. Have a grade 4 or above in English and/or maths, but are from an economically disadvantaged background and would need catch-up support. These are defined as students from the 27% most economically deprived areas of the country based on the index of multiple deprivation.
3. Initial assessment, during the first few weeks of the academic year, has identified gaps in skills or knowledge, due to the disruption to learning they experienced in the 2020/2021 academic year.

Catch-up sessions will contain a maximum of seven students, so that each student gets the individualised support they need to catch up on missed learning. The support provided by the College will be aligned with the following three strands:

1. English and maths

These sessions will focus on developing understanding of key concepts and principles for English language and mathematics, including reading, critical analysis and numeracy skills. Students will also benefit from exam revision techniques to help them prepare for final assessment. Through the use of the Century online learning portal, we will support the development of these skills, not only for those on an English/maths qualification but also those that may have achieved a high grade but have recognised skills gaps.

2. Practical skills development

The College recognises that many students missed out on time to develop and practice important practical and technical skills. Therefore, students will benefit from additional practical sessions, helping them to achieve industry standards and prepare them for progression onto the next level of study or directly into employment or an apprenticeship.

3. Technical/vocational knowledge development

The College is committed to identifying and addressing gaps in knowledge development for students on technical and vocational study programmes. Teachers are working with students to accurately identify these knowledge gaps and provide online or face-to-face sessions for individuals and small groups.

4. Generic skills gaps as a result of lost learning.

The College recognises that many of our learners have never sat formal exams and will need support with generic examination preparation techniques, such as time management skills, organisation and revision techniques. We also recognise there will be many students who will have developed anxiety towards formal examinations, so part of our strategy is to support students to prepare for these exams.

To ensure that these sessions are available to all students who need them, the College has provided additional staffing resources, utilising the allocated funding.