Mulberry School for Girls received an allocation of £9148 for the Literacy and Numeracy Catch-Up premium for the last academic year (2018-2019).

The allocation was used to contribute towards running small group sessions with students in order to develop their Maths and English skills. 30 students from Year 7 and Year 8 completed a 10 week academic mentoring scheme each Wednesday afternoon in the summer term of 2019. The students completed a baseline assessment in either Maths or English in order to identify their particular areas for development, and then worked with their mentors who provided personalised and targeted support to allow them to improve.

Review of the impact of the approach last year has shown that the vast majority of students very much benefited from these sessions. For example, the assessments completed during the mentoring sessions showed that on average pupils had improved their academic performance by over 1 grade. This is a fantastic 304 times the expected level of progress for pupils over this timeframe. 23 pupils moved up by at least 1 grade boundary between the baseline assessment and the eventual ‘progress’ assessment. For those receiving Maths support progress was pleasing with 73% of students improving by at least 1 grade (based on the Team Up mentoring scheme grading). Using the same mentoring grading score 92% of the students receiving support for English improved their performance by at least 1 grade, with 50% of this group improving by 2 grades by the end of the summer term.

The mentoring scheme therefore seems to have had a fairly consistent impact across both subjects. Feedback from students was positive also. On a 1-5 scale (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree), 89% of students gave a 4 or above in response to the statement ‘I would recommend the programme to other pupils like me’ with 75% of pupils giving a 4 or above in response to the statement ‘I am more committed to achieving the future I want for myself as a result of a programme’. It is hoped this improved confidence will help students in their English and Maths as they move through their time at Mulberry School for Girls.

The Catch-Up funding for 2018-19 was used in its entirety in the following ways:

- To enable a 10 week mentoring session in the summer term of 2019 with ‘Team Up’ mentors providing small-group mentoring and assessment sessions to targeted pupils in English and Maths.

- To allow for the covering of staff members from the Maths and English faculties to visit local feeder Primary Schools to deliver sessions to Year 6 pupils in these subjects.

- Charging an hourly rate for the designated member of the Senior Leadership Team to oversee the Team Up sessions in the summer term.