

Summer School 2021 Report



A summer school running over 2 weeks was offered to all rising Year 7 students (246 in total), from **Monday 24th July - Friday 30th July** and **Monday 2nd August – Friday 6th August 2021**. Students were invited to select a week and a particular effort was made to engage more vulnerable students and parents of these students were targeted with telephone calls encouraging them to participate.

The summer school aimed to support students with the transition from primary school into the Furness Academy Community, and to aid educational recovery following COVID-19, both academically and in terms of wellbeing.

An amazing staff team joined by 20 senior students ran the two weeks and did an incredible job of guiding, supporting, and facilitating excellent sessions.

The students were split into 5 groups, each group had a staff leader and 4 senior students, who were there to support the students with their integration into the Furness Family.

During the week the students worked through the summer school curriculum which comprised of lessons in: English, Maths and STEM, as well as lessons in Sport, Team Building, Cooking, Art, Drama and Music. Every morning, they all started together in the main hall to explore aspects of learner attributes that they had been developing each day. It was fantastic to hear them share how their confidence was growing; in communication, being a team player, reflection, creativity, independence and most importantly their excitement in being a Furness Academy student. All received a water bottle (with their name on), Summer School T-shirt and bag. Throughout the week a variety of spot prizes were awarded. Lunch was provided and eaten by all students and staff together each day. A celebration event took place at the end of the week, acknowledging and celebrating where students had demonstrated the Academy's core values throughout the week.

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Attendance

180 students signed up to attend the summer school, across the two weeks, from a range of primary schools.

Parents of students who had signed up to attend, but not arrived, were contacted. The most common reasons given was changing holiday plans and illness (COVID-19).

The final number of attendees for the two weeks was **175 students**.

Feedback

Students said:

- I have enjoyed summer school, thank you!
- I feel summer school has made starting Year 7 easier.
- I liked having the senior students working with us, they were nice!
- I was worried about starting because I didn't know anyone, now I have made some friends and am looking forward to starting in September.
- I liked the food, it was brill!
- It was nice having the building to ourselves, so we could explore it and get used to it.

Parents comments:

- My child has enjoyed attending summer school.
- I feel attending summer school has made starting Year 7 easier for my child.
- My child has made some new friends during summer school week.
- Thank you for doing the summer school. It's really has helped my son with looking forward to starting in September, as he was very nervous. He feels so much more relaxed about starting now.
- My son is excited and can't wait to start in September!
- Summer school has made my daughter less nervous about starting in September. She has also made some new friends from other schools and met people who will be in her form.
- Thank you for allowing this opportunity!
- Loved the certificates that she came home with, so proud.
- The balance of academic with enrichment activities was spot on!

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Next Steps:

- The summer school Programme was successful and achieved its aims of supporting Year 7 transition both academically and in terms of wellbeing.
- The curriculum offer was varied and successfully engaged the students', whilst also providing them with the introduction to our routines and expectations.
- The group meeting at the start of each day, the form group set up, shared lunch, and the many activities that took place throughout the week, helped to create a sense of community, and ensured the students left with a clear understanding of what was expected as a learner at Furness Academy.
- If finances would allow, we would want to repeat the summer school in Summer 2022. The structure of the day worked well and could easily be replicated without change.
- Attendance at the summer school could potentially even be higher if the dates were published to rising Year 7 parents earlier.

Helen Robinson – Deputy Headteacher 2021

