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Spotlight on Raising Standards

We believe that every student is important, that quality-first teaching is key and that all staff aim to improve life chances and outcomes for all students across the whole Academy and Trust in line with our wider school values. My role as the Raising Standards Leader (RSL) is to focus on the students, often at the end of a key stage, who are struggling to make progress and who need additional help to achieve the outcomes they need and want. I work closely with the different stakeholders in our student's education including Excellence, Ready to Learn (R2L), Progress Leaders, Senior and Middle Leaders, parents, and the students themselves so that they can achieve the best they can.

The use of critical data, assessments and feedback helps to identify where the need is and to focus on the areas of knowledge and skills that students need to address to improve attainment. We aim to identify a number of 'Key Marginal' students across different subjects who need additional help, so that once these students have been identified, then a range of different strategies can be used to continue progression and improve outcomes.

Every week there are meetings with the leaders of the core subjects of English, Maths, and Science to focus on student progress within their subjects and look at where support might be needed. These meetings ensure that the students who may need support, in critical gateway subjects, are being identified and strategies can then be put in place. Already this year, these meetings have ensured additional equipment is provided for students in Maths, targeted interventions have been put in place for Science and students have been given a wide range of online resources in English.

Year 11 is a critical part of our student's school experience and with many different post-16 options available we want to ensure that our students are supported in all subjects. After every assessment cycle, there are individual Targeted Improvement Plan meetings with the Curriculum Leader from every subject. The data is reviewed so that areas of success can be celebrated and developed further, while any challenges can be discussed, and support can be provided. This also presents an excellent opportunity for best practice to be shared across the Academy.



The focus of the RSL is the progress of the students, so working directly with them to use their experiences in guiding the support is important. In asking the students for feedback, we have been able to support them in many ways. One such example is opening a fully resourced and staffed study hub after school, where students can continue to work in a dedicated learning environment. Additional staff often visit the study hub to guide revision and run small workshops. This has been so successful that the hours have been extended for a few days each week.

Meetings with different groups within our student body have helped provide feedback on the mock exam programme within the school, ensuring that the students feel connected to the assessment process. Different groups of students have had individual meetings to identify what their focus is on for post-16 and to provide any support needed such as revision guides or careers advice.

As part of the PiXL network (UK's largest education leadership network, spanning KS1-5) we also have a huge range of resources and advice available to us in supporting student progress. Our PiXL associate provides regular advice on the challenges schools are facing as well as providing a network of support and opportunity to share success. Our subject leaders attend national conferences where they can communicate and collaborate with other teachers, educational experts and PiXL partners. This allows active discussion with the RSL, to look at the future and what progress should be made.

Our focus has always been on improving the outcomes of our students and the RSL role is to drive forward raising standards and to empower people to make the changes that will make a positive impact on the future.

If there is anything you would like to discuss further, please email gattard@haz5d.com

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