



The Role of the Learning Mentor 2021/22 (Funded through The Recovery Premium)

What is a Learning Mentor?

A Learning Mentor provides support and guidance to help pupils' overcome social, emotional and learning difficulties which act as barriers to learning. They bridge academic and pastoral support roles ensuring that individual pupils engage more effectively in learning and are participating in the life of the school. The barriers to learning can be wide ranging and often very personal to the individual pupil. Some may not have developed appropriate learning or study skills, personal organisation activities or have lost motivation. These have been common challenges for many pupils as a result of covid and its impact on education.

Learning mentors help to identify and target these pupils at risk of disaffection and help them to identify and address what it is that is getting in the way of their learning. They do this by building professional helping relationships with pupils who have been referred to them. Through mentoring one to one or in small groups they follow an agreed time bound action plan based on the pupil's strengths and needs. They involve parents and can facilitate access to specialist support for young people and families.

Once Learning mentors have supported pupils with the above, their focus may shift to academic support where needed. This requires knowledge of the curriculum requirements for KS3 and GCSE. At this stage in support, liaison with class teachers and Heads of Subject becomes increasingly important.

Who is it aimed at?

Research showed that vulnerable pupils (those eligible for free school meals within the last 6 years) were behind on both reading and mathematics when they returned to school in autumn 2020. It is clear that the pandemic has reversed years of hard work reducing the gap in schools. Therefore the primary focus of the Learning Mentor at Beechen Cliff is to support Pupil Premium learners to re-engage in school, achieve their potential and go on to fulfil their ambitions.

How is it funded?

In 2021/22 schools received a Recovery Premium. The premium received by Beechen Cliff was £15,000. This funding has been spent on the role of the Learning Mentor.

Group Sizes

The Learning Mentor works for 15 hours each week and has up to fourteen pupils to support at any given time. In terms 2-4, priority has been given to Years 10 and 11 to support them in achieving their best in their GCSEs and in having strong plans for post 16 education.

Length of Sessions

Sessions vary depending on the needs of the pupil but each pupil meets with their Learning Mentor at least once each week. The meeting is always followed up with an email or telephone call to the pupil and parents to summarise progress and any agreed future actions.

Learning Mentor Activities

The support given by the Learning Mentor very much depends on the needs of the individual. Support can include but is not limited to:

- Attendance support
- Academic Mentoring
- In class support
- Revision support
- Careers advice
- College visits
- Interview practice
- Parent meetings
- Teacher/pastoral liaison
- Support to access extra-curricular provision

At Beechen Cliff School, our Learning Mentor is Andrew Davies. Andrew was Head Teacher of the school from 2005-2021. His knowledge of the pupils, the school, the academic and wider curriculum has been a huge advantage in this role.

