

**Teaching Schools Leicestershire**  
**East Midlands Challenge Project**  
**Tackling disadvantage and closing the achievement gap**

## **Case Study**

### **Summary**

At Manor High we have narrowed the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers over the last 3 years; in some cases we have closed and even exceeded the gap.

### **Name of school**

Manor High School

### **Brief description of what the case study is about**

Focus on improving the reading age of students.

### **Why did this work take place?**

We needed to try to narrow the gap. We also acknowledged that students needed support with their reading in order to improve their reading ages and to improve their attitude to reading.

The workshops would hopefully inspire pupils to create their own writing.

1:3 support had little effect in the previous year.

### **Description of the work undertaken**

Students with the lowest reading ability were identified on entry into the school and have taken part in a number of initiatives to boost their reading ability. The impact of these schemes have had a significant impact on the vast majority of students. The average Standardised Age Score (SAS) for this group has risen by 8 points. 94% of students made at least average progress (national 85%). 29% of students made above average progress (national 15%) (2016 Reading Year 6 Intervention Group). Whole school focus on progress rather than attainment at KS2 and KS3. Rigorous data tracking and analysis.

This scheme is designed to stimulate children aged 9-13 years who are struggling to engage with and achieve in literacy. Premier League Reading Stars evaluation has shown that the programme can have a significant impact on attainment and create positive attitudes to reading and writing. The scheme works in partnership with the

Premier League to create an evidence based literacy programme for schools to use with target groups. The scheme will hopefully finish with a celebration event held at the Leicester City Stadium which will include a stadium tour and a player appearance.

We have also had a visit from an author /poet to do workshops with pupils.

Any surplus staffing we have had we have used for reading intervention – 1:1 reading with Yr 6 PP.

Older students have acted as Reader Leaders with the younger students.

### **Impact of this work**

Improved reading ages

Improved attitude to reading

Positive engagement in the scheme

Examples of Performance poetry or creative writing that can be showcased within school

The proportion of disadvantaged KS2 pupils that attained at least level 4 was equal to or above the National figure for other pupils in writing. From at least 5/6 of every starting points the proportion of disadvantaged KS2 pupils making or exceeding expected progress in reading, writing and in mathematics was similar to that of other pupils nationally.

### **Key learning points**

Engage parents from the start and they then support with the involvement of the students.

### **Next Steps**

Students well-being and resilience

### **Recommendations to other schools**

Involvement of peers.