

APPRAISAL of the IMPACT of the DEAR PROJECT 2017

2017 Programme

Initially 12 girls were identified as having a reading age significantly below their chronological age based on the January STAR reading data. The reading ages ranged from 8.02 to 10.11. These girls began the programme by reading to a 6th form Reading Buddy 3 times a week from 18th April to 26th May.

After the May STAR reading test, we reassessed the group of girls and one student had improved her reading age to such an extent that we felt that she would not need to be further supported. An additional 7 girls were identified bringing the total of the DEAR group to 18.

These 18 girls commenced a programme of withdrawal lessons 3 times a week (in 3 groups of 6) to focus on Inference skills with Mr Ellis, from June 12th. This was in addition to the continuation of morning registration reading sessions. This was a programme of 4 weeks with a final STAR Reading test being conducted in the final 5th week session. During this period two of the girls were absent for a week on a Germany trip and one girl was unable to attend a couple of sessions due to sporting events. One student missed the final reading test due to taking unauthorised holiday.

Analysis of the data would suggest that the girls in the DEAR reading programme increased their reading ages over and above the 3 month time period by an average of **12 months**. Qualitative evidence would suggest that the girls have developed a greater appreciation of the need to understand and develop their vocabulary knowledge. They enjoyed the sessions with Mr Ellis and enthusiastically participated. Some suggested that they have started reading more. They also felt more confident with their reading.

Moving Forward: Library Reading Lessons

From September 2017, John Ellis and Kirsty Lees will lead a fortnightly Reading lesson in the Library for each of the Year 7 and Year 8 classes. During these lessons the current Year 7 students that have participated in the DEAR programme can be closely monitored as they progress into Year 8, any areas of weakness identified and possible interventions designed. It is also envisaged that the DEAR programme will start earlier in the year – after February half term, for the Year 7 cohort.

If we can encourage 6th Formers to help within these library sessions too as part of their enriched curriculum we would like to develop their role after a period of establishing a positive reading relationship to focus on a key area of weakness for each individual whilst reading.