

Kingsdown “Roar to the Beat” Summer School - Review / Impact

[Department for Education \(DfE\) research](#) estimates that in the first half-term of autumn 2020, students in, year 3 to 9 were on average around 1.6 to 2 months behind on their reading and year 3 to 7 were around 3.2 months behind on their Maths ages. Anecdotal evidence also points to children’s mental health having suffered from Lockdown and from periods of individual or class isolation even after schools reopened fully in the autumn term.

Summer school provision with an academic focus has the potential to support attending students to make up for some of their missed education. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) finds that, on average, students attending a summer school can make:

- 2 months’ additional progress (compared with pupils who do not attend)
- up to 4 months’ additional progress if the summer school offers small group tuition led by highly-trained and experienced teaching staff

Evidence suggests a broader benefit for families and communities, support for vulnerable children and young people, pupil mental health and wellbeing, improved education engagement and transitions, and reduced youth violence.

Aim of the programme

The aim of the programme is to deliver a short Summer School with a blend of academic education and enrichment activities.

Attendance and Student breakdown

Attendance

Total students invited	Students attended	Percentage of cohort
70	67	35.1%

Breakdown of Student Groups

Student Group	Quantity
DA	18
SEND	21
YC	14
Boys	26

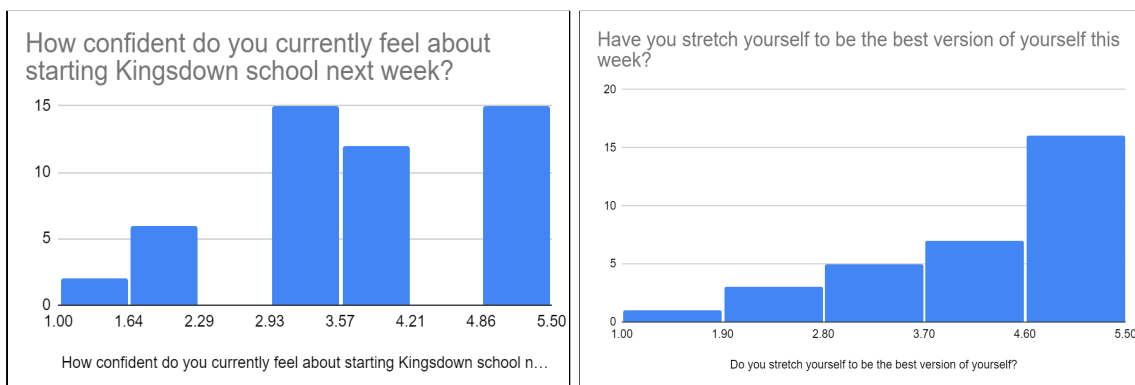
Knowledge and skills that were studied

The theme of the week was very much African based encompassing many different subjects such as Geography, English, Music, PE and Art. First students were introduced to both Physical and Human Geography such as the countries that make up Africa's vast continent. This then led to learning about these countries and their culture, such as the instruments and drums used to create African music e.g. the Djembe and the Dun-Dun.

Every day of Summer School also encompassed a Literacy focus based upon the school's very successful "Book Your Future" programme. Each day was brought to a close with students reading a section of the Butterfly Lion, by Michael Morpurgo. This was then followed by discussion and comprehension tasks which proved very popular. Another popular activity of Summer School was the inclusion of the Duke of Edinburgh day. This consisted of teamwork activities such as tent building, rope swing and robot building. This developed students' ability to communicate, cooperate and compromise and of course have fun together.

Impact

After their time at Summer School all students completed an impact survey to evaluate their experience of the week. The quantitative questions have been displayed in the bar chart below. When asked about what they were proud of 24% of students mentioned the friends/ connections they made at Summer School. When asked what excited them the most about starting Kingsdown, 85% of students stated a subject, of which PE, Art, Maths, Drama and Geography were mentioned.



(Chart 1 Key- 1= Not at all 2= Not very 3= A Little 4= Yes 5= Very confident)

(Chart 2 Key- 1= Not at all 2= Not very 3= A Little 4= Yes 5= A Lot)

Parent Feedback- *"I can safely say that it has helped to alleviate some of her anxieties about starting a new school next week and she is ready and eager to start, wearing her 'Roar to the Beat' badge with pride!"*

Summer School promotional video- <https://youtu.be/s-F6AZ72sew>

Term 1 impact

After an analysis of the first data drop we found that over 70% of all students who attended summer school reported a 98% or higher attendance score for term 1. Whereas only 13% had an attendance of lower than 90%.

Attitude to learning scores were also very high with 76% of students achieving an average of 1.4 or higher across all subjects, only 2 students scored lower than a 1.9. Even though a direct correlation between these results and summer school can not be drawn conclusively, it is a good indication that these particular students have made a good start to their first term at Kingsdown School.

Lessons Learnt from Summer School

Having a very clear structure to the day proved to be a successful formula as well as the dedicated daily sport and reading sessions. The shorter day was also a positive of the week as it meant behaviour was brilliant and students were not overloaded with information or activities. If the summer school was to be repeated next year and numbers were increased, I would recommend that the same ratios were maintained. These low ratios allowed for better relationships to be built between teacher and student, giving them a friendly face to recognise when they start in September.

Summer School Finances:

Kingsdown School - Summer School August 2021	
Summer School Entitled allocation	£ 20,895.00
Staffing - Delivery	£ 12,729.17
Staffing - Administrative/Business	£ 1,882.78
Staffing - Site & Cleaning	£ 208.53
Resources	£ 1,252.71
Facilities/other	£ 873.08
Total Cost	£ 16,946.26
Dates of Summer School	
22.8.21 - 26.8.21	
Total number of students accessing	
Day 1	65
Day 2	65
Day 3	65
Day 4	64
Day 5	61
	320

Conclusion

The reaction from both students and parents has been hugely positive. This coupled with the feedback and the results of the impact survey confirm Kingsdown 2020 Summer School was a success.