

Planning for the year ahead - Embedding an Alps culture

The Summer Term presents us with an opportunity to take stock of the past year, reflecting and evaluating on where our systems and processes have been successful and where there may need to be some improvements going into the next Academic cycle.

In terms of data, we will be preparing for Results Days in August, the resulting data analysis that comes from the publication of examination results, and the subsequent review cycles in September involving our teaching staff. Our attentions throughout June and early July will shift to the progress overview of our Year 10 and 12 students and ensuring that we have a good handle on the support that they will need when they return in September.

This paper presents an overview of the ways in which Alps can support you in setting up those quality assurance cycles focused on student progress, and in embedding an Alps culture in your schools and colleges. Embedding an Alps culture is driven by the leadership team, but is aimed at empowering subject leaders and subject teachers. The successful schools and colleges who use Alps to drive this improvement have made Alps their business.

Preparing for Summer 2019 Results Day and Subject Review

Results Days are notoriously busy days, however some of the preparation listed below can save you time. Some of this can be done by your Data Managers in Connect Data, but there are aspects of staff training and expectation that will be driven by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

For example, throughout September, most schools and colleges will conduct an examination review. There are key aspects for any SLT to consider in the Summer Term which will lead to a smoother review cycle in September.

- Is there a shared understanding across all staff on how they are expected to analyse the data in their Reports and Connect Interactive?
- Are all key staff trained in how to use Connect Interactive?
- Have action plans been developed across this term which will need to be reviewed in light of the examination outcomes?
- Will all of the analysis feed into line management / quality assurance meetings in September?

Connect Data tasks:

- Ensure key staff know their login details
- All student and teaching information can be added to Connect Data before the end of the Summer term
- On results day, (once the SIMS embargo is lifted) add your examination data
- Connect Interactive and PDF Reports will be instantly available

Senior Leader's checklist

This checklist is designed to be used by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. It provides an overview of the annual Alps cycle and the ways in which Alps and Alps Connect Interactive can support you throughout the year. The symbols indicate that there is a short help video in the Knowledge Base*.

* The short help videos will be added as and when they become available throughout the academic year

RESULTS DAY AND REVIEW OF RESULTS	
On the morning of Results Day, complete the Connect Data submission process, giving you instant access to your Alps PDF report and Connect Interactive (if subscribed)	
Use the raw results page to check accuracy of submission	Are all your subjects correct? Are teaching sets identified? Are the number of entries accurate?
Strategic overview analysis – first look at Alps strategic indicators	How do your strategic indicators compare with last year/over a 4-year trend?
Gap analysis on strategic indicators	Look particularly at the banded by ability page – you can apply a filter. Have any groups underperformed?
Review your Subject value-added page 	How has each subject performed? Are there any subjects which are blue? Any which have performed in the red for the first time? Any consistently high achieving subjects? Remember, you can add a filter to this too.

Consideration of all of these will lead to a more detailed and productive discussion between a senior leader and a subject leader, or between teachers within a subject area.

Our staff checklists – These outline many of the questions that staff should be asking themselves during a review of examination results. There are 4 staff checklists covering different roles within the school/college that have been designed to cover the analysis usually expected to be linked to that role. These can be found on the Knowledge Base.

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Quality Assurance Cycles

Most successful schools and colleges will have a clearly defined QA model that is understood by all staff. There are many aspects to this, but in terms of embedding Alps, some of the points below should be considered when reviewing your QA cycle for September.

- There is a published Assessment calendar – staff are clear as to what assessment data will be expected from them and at which points in the academic year. There is consistency across all staff about how to arrive at this grade.
- Target setting: staff understand how to generate subject specific target grades using Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) and ensure that these are aspirational and realistic for their students.
- Staff use MEGs and subject specific target grades to track and monitor student progress across the course and are pro-active in involving students in this process.
- Senior Leaders routinely meet with Subject Leaders to monitor progress towards target grades after each Connect Interactive data entry point.
- Intervention strategies are devised carefully following each data entry point, and impact on progress is monitored closely and fed back into the QA process.
- All staff know how to get the most from the monitoring accuracy area of Connect Interactive, so that they can make judgements on the consistency of teacher assessment across all areas of the school or college. Resources can then be implemented in a more effective manner.
- Students are involved from the outset of their courses – how their targets are generated and about when assessments will take place. They are clear on how staff will use interim grades to intervene, support and challenge them to maximise their outcomes.

See our Alps Cycle:

www.alps.education/alps-annual-cycle

Preparing for September - hitting the ground running with Years 10 and 12

Most schools and colleges will have some form of formal assessment with these Year Groups in the Summer Term. These may be internal mock examinations, external AS examinations or a combination of both for some Year 12 students. The points opposite outline the ways in which you can enter this data into Connect Interactive to ensure that you have a robust set of monitoring data to form the starting point for intervention in September for Year 11 and Year 13.

• **Year 12 into 13 - A Level:** Use either, the AS Grades of students returning to take A Levels in 2020 (discounting any subject dropped by each student), or end of Y12 Predicted Grades (recorded after the Mocks).

• **Year 12 into 13 - BTEC:** Use your BTEC course tracker to estimate most-likely end of Y13 final grades based on the points in units completed to date. Make sure all students know how many points they need to accrue in Y13 units to gain higher overall grades.

• **Year 10 in 11:** Use your end of Year 10 Predicted Grades recorded after the mock examinations.

Alps Champions:

In 2019-20 we will be encouraging all Alps schools and colleges to consider identifying an Alps Champion or Alps Champions. This could be an individual or a group, both at KS4 and KS5, who are committed to embedding the Alps culture more deeply in the school or college. We will be running a series of events aimed at these Alps Champions across next year.

Contact Alps

Speak to us about starting your own improvement journey with Alps.

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