



PROJECT PROPOSAL

Raising Standards in the Sixth Form

Project Leads: Jon Pepper (Attain co-ordinator)
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Project Timescale: September 2019 - July 2020

Target Audience: All Merton sixth form teachers
Merton sixth form students

Review of 2018-19

During the academic year 2018-19, The Attain Partnership approved the *Raising Standards in the Sixth Form* project with a total commitment of £17,350 to address the areas of improvement for post-16 education in Merton schools.

The evaluation of the project is now nearing completion and the initial responses from Heads of Sixth Forms can be found in the appendix to this proposal.

Rationale for 2019-20

In response to the feedback from Headteachers and Heads of Sixth Forms, this new proposal intends to present an outline of how the 2018-19 project can be developed and expanded into 2019-20. Its focus will be areas of improvement for post-16 education in Merton schools in line with the strategic Attain priority of *6th Form Outcomes*.

Last year's project evaluation, along with meetings with secondary headteachers, senior leaders and heads of sixth forms, have identified the following actions that could form part of a project in 2019-20:

1. Arrange senior examiners visits for teachers of AQA Psychology, OCR English Literature, AQA Chemistry and OCR History – to be organised by Attain with all schools invited according to exam board
2. Organisation of BTEC senior examiner sessions for Pearson Edexcel BTEC Applied Science and Business
3. Encourage teachers to become subject examiners with release time through matched funding from Attain
4. Fund professional memberships of subject associations based on priorities of each individual sixth form
5. Organisation of A level exam masterclasses for sixth form students in Edexcel Mathematics and AQA Sociology
6. Funding of subscription to Prince's Teaching Institute to allow for comprehensive subject knowledge enhancement for Merton's A level teachers (access additionally includes unlimited access for KS3 and KS4 teachers)

Project Outcomes

Merton School Improvement recommends that the above actions form a project taking place throughout the 2019-20 academic year, with the aim of raising standards of academic attainment across Merton's sixth forms, especially in areas where the overall benefit can be maximised.

A level subjects and exam boards which were identified Attain as being a priority (based on numbers of students enrolled across Merton) were as follows:

A level Subject	Attain Schools Student Numbers
AQA Psychology	128
Edexcel Mathematics	119
AQA Sociology	104
OCR English Literature	68
AQA Chemistry	50
OCR Biology	48
OCR History	48
AQA Physics	29

Applied subjects and exams boards that were identified as being a priority (based on numbers of students enrolled across Merton) were:

Applied Subject	Attain Schools Student Numbers
Edexcel Applied BTEC Science	66
Edexcel Applied BTEC Business	37

Intended Outcomes

1. To achieve an average of 5% increase in A*-C grades achieved by students in key subject areas by 2020, with an overall rise in A*-C grades in Attain sixth forms.
2. For all Attain 6th Forms to have an overall value-added score of at least 0 by 2021.
3. To maximise the benefits of subject enrichment in all subjects through access to *Prince's Teaching Institute*.

Actions and Costings

N.B. Costings are approximate

1. Arrange senior examiners visits for teachers of AQA Psychology, OCR English Literature, AQA Chemistry and AQA Physics – to be organised by Attain with all schools invited according to exam board

	<i>Cost per session</i>	<i>Number of sessions</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Senior Examiner consultancy fees	£800	4	£3200
Room booking (Chaucer Centre)	£100	4	£400
TOTAL COST:			£3600
REACH:			20-25 teachers

2. Organisation of BTEC senior examiner sessions for Pearson Edexcel BTEC Applied Science and Business

	<i>Cost per session</i>	<i>Number of sessions</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Chief Examiner consultancy fees	£800	2	£1600
Room booking (Chaucer Centre)	£100	2	£200
TOTAL COST:			£1800
REACH:			5-8 teachers

3. Encourage teachers to become subject examiners with release time through matched funding from Attain

Schools retain the discretion as to which subjects and teachers to recommend to become subject examiners.

<i>Number of schools (S)</i>	<i>Days release time per teacher (D)</i>	<i>Number of teachers per school (T)</i>	<i>Total hours (S x D x T)</i>
6	5	2	60

Cost per full day teacher release time	£200
Cost for total release hours	£12,000
Cost to Attain (50% matched funding with schools)	£6000

TOTAL COST: £6000
REACH: 12 teachers

4. Fund professional memberships of subject associations based on priorities of each individual sixth form

Professional memberships in key subjects to be arranged upon the request of heads of sixth forms for a maximum of 3 teachers.

<i>Number of schools (S)</i>	<i>Number of teachers per school (T)</i>	<i>Cost of membership per teacher (C)</i>	<i>Total Cost (S x T x C)</i>
6	3	£100	£1800

TOTAL COST: £1800
REACH: 18 teachers

5. Organisation of A level exam masterclasses for sixth form students in Edexcel Mathematics and AQA Sociology

Events to be funded and organised by Attain in February-March 2020.

<i>Cost per session</i>	<i>Number of sessions</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
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Consultancy fees	£800	2	£1600
Room hire	£100	2	£200

TOTAL COST: £1800
REACH: 5-8 teachers

6. Funding of subscription to Prince's Teaching Institute to allow for comprehensive subject knowledge enhancement for Merton's A level teachers (access additionally includes unlimited access for KS3 and KS4 teachers)

	<i>Cost per school</i>	<i>Number of schools</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Subscription to PTI Unlimited (discounted – see appendix 2)	£3000	6	£18,000

TOTAL COST: £18,000
REACH: 200+ secondary teachers

TOTAL PROJECT COST (Actions 1-5): £15,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST (Actions 1-6): £33,000

Indicative Timetable

Month	Action no.	Description	Individual
September	6	PTI Unlimited package purchased for all Attain secondary schools and services clearly communicated	Jon Pepper

		with schools to maximise benefit	
	1/2	Contact exam boards/subject associations to arrange dates for senior examiner sessions in November and December and book rooms for these sessions	Jon Pepper Steve Williams Paul McGivern
November	1/2	Senior examiner sessions delivered to teachers	Various senior examiners
December	5	Set dates for exam masterclasses to take place in February/March 2020	Jon Pepper
February	5	Exam masterclasses to take place for students	Jon Pepper
March	3	Sixth forms contacted to provide names of staff who will become subject examiners	Heads of sixth forms
	4	Attain to forward appropriate funds to sixth forms for release time for subject examiners and for membership of subject associations	Jon Pepper

Evaluation

Attain recommends evaluating the impact of this project beyond 2019 as many of the actions will take time to embed. It is expected that any benefits of the project will largely be seen in 2020 and beyond.

Project success will be judged according to the realisation of the following outcomes:

1. to achieve an average of 5% increase in A*-C grades achieved by students in key subject areas by 2020, with an overall rise in A*-C grades in Attain sixth forms
2. for all Attain sixth forms to have an overall value-added score of at least zero by 2021.
3. to maximise the benefits of subject enrichment in all subjects through access to *Prince's Trust Institute*

Merton A level outcomes from 2018 in key subjects are below, along with the targets carried forward from the previous project, and for this project:

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving A level grades A*-C	Target for academic year 2020	Target for the academic year 2021
Biology	45%	50%	
Business	55%	60%	
Chemistry	60%	65%	
Economics	51%	56%	
Psychology	80%	85%	
Sociology	57%	62%	
Mathematics			
English Literature			
Physics			

N.B. Subject-specific outcomes are provisional depending on senior examiner sessions being available for the subjects and exam boards described above