

# Autumn Headlines

This new termly update provides headteachers and senior leaders with a brief summary of priorities, recommended actions and details of the support offered by the Key Stage 3 Strategy in the autumn term.

Priorities	Actions	Key Stage 3 Strategy support
<p>Analyse the 2004 Key Stage 3 national test results and the performance of the current Key Stage 3 cohort.</p> <p>Provide additional support for pupils not making good progress and at risk of not reaching the national expectation.</p> <p>Challenge and support subject departments.</p> <p>Ensure that teachers new to teaching in Key Stage 3 are well prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the 2004 national test results and the performance of the current Key Stage 3 cohort.</li> <li>Implement the intervention plan. Monitor and adjust provision as necessary.</li> <li>Analyse the performance of departments. Identify strengths and weaknesses and act upon the findings.</li> <li>Ensure that departments are given time and support to share messages from training and work collaboratively to introduce new practice.</li> <li>Provide support for teachers new to Key Stage 3 and ensure that they acquire the necessary subject and pedagogical knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2004–05 particular attention is being given to pupils who are still at level 3 at the start of Year 7 and to those level 4 pupils at risk of not making sufficient progress to reach level 5 and beyond (the non-movers). <i>Core training in English, mathematics, science and ICT</i> in the autumn term focuses on <i>increasing pupils' rates of progress</i> so that many more pupils achieve two levels of progress across the key stage. This training complements the two-part training in English, mathematics and science focusing on level 3 pupils, which began in summer 2004 and continues in spring 2005.</li> <li><i>Tackling underperformance: a guide for school leaders</i> will be available in the autumn term. This guide is aimed at headteachers and senior leaders to help them develop a whole-school approach to tackling underperformance.</li> <li><i>Preparing teachers new to Year 9</i> provides guidance on accessing information about teaching, learning and assessment for both newly qualified teachers and more experienced staff. This guidance will be available during the autumn term.</li> </ul>
<p>Get Year 7 off to a good start.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the induction arrangements for new Year 7 pupils and transition arrangements within the key stage.</li> <li>Provide induction and support for the parents and carers of new Year 7 pupils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Curriculum continuity: effective transfer between primary and secondary schools</i>, published in summer 2004, is intended to help schools consider how they can further improve curriculum continuity. A leaflet to be published in autumn 2004 will focus on transition within the key stage. It will summarise some key materials produced by the Strategy and aims to stimulate further thinking about transfer and transition.</li> <li><i>Introducing Key Stage 3</i> is a video and support material intended for use at parents' evenings and similar events. <i>Getting involved</i> is a DVD and support materials for distribution to parents. It is available from September.</li> </ul>
<p>Introduce the whole-school priority work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a sustained whole-school approach to developing your chosen whole-school priority. <i>Assessment for learning (AfL), ICT across the curriculum (ICTAC), Literacy and learning or Leading in learning</i> (learning and thinking skills).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The materials to support the whole-school priorities are being published during 2004–05 and you will have negotiated LEA consultant support to help your work in school. <i>ICT across the curriculum (ICTAC)</i> materials are now available. <i>Literacy and learning across the curriculum</i> packs will be available in the second half of the autumn term. <i>Assessment for learning: subject development materials</i> will enable subject departments to work collaboratively on the assessment for learning theme identified for whole-school development. These resources will be available from September. <i>Leading in learning</i> (learning and thinking skills) will be available during the spring term 2005.</li> <li><i>Pedagogy and practice: teaching and learning in secondary schools</i> is a pack containing ten units which were piloted last year and have been revised, together with ten new units. These units provide a means by which schools can reduce in-school variations in the quality of teaching. The pack includes units that support whole-school priorities. It is available from September.</li> </ul>
<p>Embed behaviour and attendance work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote positive behaviour and regular attendance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Behaviour and attendance core day 3</i> will examine the key features of effective behaviour and attendance monitoring to inform school action planning. It will be provided by LEA consultants during the autumn term.</li> </ul>

For more information contact your LEA Key Stage 3 Strategy manager or consult the Key Stage 3 website [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/keystages3/](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/keystages3/)