

Spring Headlines

This termly update provides headteachers and senior leaders with a brief summary of the priorities, recommended actions and details of the support offered by the Secondary National Strategy in the spring term.

2007

Priorities	Action	Secondary National Strategy support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review pupils' efforts and progress across all subjects. ▪ Ensure that pupils are fully prepared for this year's tests and examinations. ▪ Ensure schools' readiness to participate in online ICT tests. Participation is to become a statutory requirement in 2008. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the national PLASC data, due to be published in February, to contextualise the performance of pupil groups and to evaluate targeted support and intervention for underperforming groups. ▪ Use a mock National Curriculum test to check Year 9 pupils' progress. ▪ Use a mock GCSE examination to check pupils' progress. ▪ Use the January assessment of the new Key Stage 4 science GCSEs to check the teaching of the new Key Stage 4 programme of study. ▪ Plan the use of booster programmes, Easter schools, alternatives to study leave. ▪ Participate in 2007 pilots to help prepare teachers for administering and teaching for the new style of testing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Booster materials are available for <i>Year 9 booster kit: English 2005</i> (DfES 0550-2004 CD), <i>mathematics</i> (DfES 0015/2002) and <i>science</i> (DfES 0017/2002). ▪ English booster lessons for Shakespeare should be adapted to address this year's set scenes, using previous years' materials as models. Revision should focus strongly on the construction of well-planned, cohesive answers that address the set question precisely. ▪ The <i>Science subject leader development materials</i> available in autumn 2006 and spring 2007 (00266-2006DOC-EN) will help schools with the implementation of the new Key Stage 4 science courses. Year 11 science pupils must not be forgotten. Reminders of effective intervention strategies will be available through LA consultants. ▪ The <i>2003 GCSE booster pack</i> (DfES 0696-2003) and <i>2005 supplement</i> (DfES 0687/2004). <i>Seeking alternatives to GCSE study leave</i> (DfES 0986-2004) contains a series of school case studies. Web pages on improving teaching and learning in English at Key Stage 4 are now available on the Standards site. ▪ ICT subject leader development meetings will continue to focus on teaching within a testing environment. For more information visit www.ks3ICTpilot.com ▪ Secondary National Strategy resources to support assessment for learning (AfL), including the <i>Assessing pupils' progress in English</i> (APP) materials (1789-2005CDO-EN), support schools in tracking pupils' progress and identification of those who will benefit from additional support in the run up to Year 9 tests and Year 11 examinations. For the senior leadership guide on AfL go to: www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/keystage3/downloads/afl_ws_guide_snlead004304.pdf. For further information on APP, go to: www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/keystage3/respub/ass_eng/

Secondary National Strategy for school improvement

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- Build capacity within the school for a renewed approach to intervention in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.
 - Ensure that senior leaders and teachers concerned with intervention engage with a blend of online and LA-provided CPD.
 - Review the school's provision for intervention as a basis for planning for the 2007–08 school year.
 - Online training modules www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/intervention/
 - Progression maps for English and mathematics www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/progressionmaps/
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- Consider the introduction of Study Plus (a new approach to raising standards in English, mathematics, literacy and numeracy in Key Stage 4), and make appropriate plans.
 - Ensure that you are briefed on the potential of Study Plus and have sufficient information to help you to decide whether to introduce it. Make space for Study Plus in the Year 10 curriculum plan for 2007–08 and identify potential staff – teacher(s) and teaching assistant(s).
 - The Secondary National Strategy is working closely with LAs to ensure that information about Study Plus is available to schools now. Materials and training will be available in the summer term of 2007.
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- Make sure that subject leader meetings are followed up and implemented.
 - Follow up subject leader development meetings and ensure implementation of their outcomes in classrooms.
 - English, mathematics, science and ICT termly updates for subject leader development folders and English subject leader web pages. These include school-based activities to support improvements in planning and teaching.
 - Guidance and assessment materials for assessing pupils' progress in reading and writing at Key Stage 3 (revised edition APP CD-ROM and web pages).
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- Continue to implement whole-school priority work.
 - Ensure a sustained and coherent approach to using whole-school initiatives to address whole-school learning needs.
 - Promote the use of ICT to strengthen pedagogy.
 - *Effective use of consultancy: implementation programme: whole-school initiatives* (web)
 - *Strengthening pedagogy with ICT* (DfES 0266-2006PCK-EN)
 - *Practical support pack* – this publication is web-based only at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/supportpack
 - AfL '8 schools' project report
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- Prepare for the SNS/CiLT Secondary Languages dissemination programme in summer 2007.
 - Review current practice and standards in modern foreign languages.
 - Sustain and develop the work with the Key Stage 3 Framework for modern foreign languages.
 - Decide whether or not you wish to be considered as a lead school of a strategic learning network.
 - Access the online training materials.
 - 12 short, online e-learning modules are arranged into four groups: Planning; Generic pedagogy; Subject pedagogy and Whole-school issues. They are available at: www.nationalstrategiescpd.org.uk/mfl
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in the Key Stage 3 Music National Dissemination and Development Programme. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Send a representative to an LA launch event and receive the DVD. ▪ Use the music DVD to review current practice and standards in music. ▪ Senior leadership teams should provide time and support for music teachers to engage with the programme, attend networks and become involved in coaching. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The interactive DVD <i>Foundation subjects: Key Stage 3 music</i> (DfES 03857-2006DVD-EN) provides appropriate materials that will help teachers review and refine practice in Key Stage 3 music classrooms. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to work to improve pupils' attendance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review attendance patterns, especially involving pupils with higher than 20% absence during the autumn term. Use subject-specific and phase-specific analysis to inform interventions. ▪ Review policies on holidays in term time, consider the curriculum offer at the start and end of terms and put in place strategies to ensure 100% attendance at tests. Implement changes and measure impact. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance leaders' network meetings. ▪ DfES guidance on registration and the new absence codes. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Begin planning for the 2007–08 transfer with partner primary schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review last year's transfer arrangements and plan for 2007-08. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online self-evaluation toolkit, <i>Supporting self-evaluation: transfer and transition</i> (http://www.supportingselfevaluation.org.uk/) is helpful in reviewing your approach and identifying actions to take. ▪ <i>Curriculum continuity: effective transfer between primary and secondary schools</i> (DfES 0116-2004G). |
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For more information contact your LA Secondary National Strategy manager or consult the Key Stage 3 website: www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/keystage3/