



S T A F F O R D

14-19 Partnership

Stafford Partnership Update – June 2020

In September we reported post 16 results which overall were slightly below the previous years pass rate (95% compared with 98.1%). This was largely down to a small number of students. However, what was very pleasing was the significant increase in grades at the top end, with 42% of grades being awarded at A*-B and an impressive 20% of all grades at A*-A. A Level Students achieving A Levels at grades AAB or higher in at least 2 "facilitating subjects" was higher than the national average (15.6% compared with 14.8%). The average overall A level grade within the Partnership was C+, this is in line with the national average. Whilst we always aspire to do better, this was nonetheless a pleasing out-turn.

This past year has seen the further settling of our central team down at Stafford Manor. Great thanks go to Maggie, Lesley Hill and Anna Ward, who have gone from strength to strength in their new setting.

Objective 1: Ensuring financial value for money and sustainability of the Partnership.

We have continued to reduce expenditure within the Partnership office, without impacting on the quality of provision. We have reduced the costs for our prospectus this year and significantly reduced the cost of the telephone services for the office. We are looking to access Stafford Manors broadband in the future, this will be another significant saving for us.

We have been working hard to raise the profile of the Partnership, Maggie has attended careers events held across the different schools. Heads of each sixth form have started to raise awareness with key stage 3 students of the Partnership and its benefits. Conversations have also started earlier and more frequently with key stage 4 students. Applications this year have increased.

Target for 2020-2021 – Continue to establish links with the Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Careers Enterprise Company and the Careers Hub work and local employers and increase the number of students coming into at least 2 schools.

Objective 2: Review and if possible enhance the range of level 3 courses (both A-level and vocational courses).

We completed Partnership wide Y10 student voice and collected 339 responses. The findings from this have influenced the strategies being used to raise awareness of the Partnership and IAG in the schools. We also used it to form the new prospectus and it has confirmed our need for a D&T based subject to be offered within the Partnership.

Target for 2020-2021 – To further develop the transition visits between sites for key stage 4 students and taster sessions for sole provider subjects. This will be dependent on the COVID 19 restrictions throughout the year. We will also be working on improving work experience. We will be developing the use of online resources and teaching tools to enable students to access their learning in the current climate and moving forward.



STAFFORD

14-19 Partnership

Objective 3: Improving Quality Assurance to ensure that outcomes improve in order for students to have best chances of accessing high quality HE/FE and apprenticeships.

Our Quality Assurance mechanisms, whilst evolving, have had a clear impact on the quality of teaching and learning overall as can be seen from the figures above. Post-16 transition, and the raising of all aspects of challenge, have helped to prepare students for their rigorous post-16 studies. A new review/report system has been developed this year. There will be 5 review/reports over the 2 years. Each review will be collated onto a report table that can be sent home to parents to clearly show progress from each review point and allow for timely intervention where required.

Target for 2020-2021 – Continue the rigorous checking of curriculums, feedback and intervention to raise standards across the Partnership.

Objective 4: Building collaboration into 14-16 to provide additional qualifications and experiences for G&T students and those at risk of NEET or Permanent Exclusion.

The pilot NEET and gifted and talented project is underway with schools placing bids for funding to support their activities to raise the aspirations of these students. We have been pleased to facilitate students visiting Russel Group and other very competitive universities across all the partnership schools, and have secured placements for alternative provisions for students who benefit greatly from this form of education. We are also delighted to be working with the Francesco Group and have created a package of alternative provision to offer to our students. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, not all of the planned activities have been able to be completed this year. However, we look forward to resuming this as soon as it is safe to do so.

Target for 2020-2021 – Continue to develop and provide more opportunities for these students. Continuing the pilot started in 2019-2020 that was unfortunately cut short due to the pandemic.

Objective 5: Becoming a centre of excellence for curriculum extension through e-learning and other enrichment opportunities, alongside providing a more comprehensive approach to IAG for our students.

3 of the 5 Partners have been using Unifrog this year and have found it to be an excellent resource for both sixth form and lower school IAG. We hope another one will come on board with it this year. With this tool we can improve the UCAS application process across the Partnership and this year hope to utilise it to share student references more effectively.

Maggie Smart passed her mini bus license and has already used it to accompany Y12 Health and Social Care Students to a day centre for adults with learning difficulties. This was an invaluable hands on experience for the students to assist their comprehension of the theory for their units. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting and working with the people who both volunteer there, and attend the day centre. These students have also completed their St John's Ambulance Essential First Aid – all age's certificates on Thursday 12th December 2019. This is a great opportunity for the students to learn life skills that adds to their CV's and UCAS applications, as well as contributing towards their course.

Target for 2020-2021 – Create virtual Partnership representation for opening evenings and careers events. Develop the use of Unifrog across the Partnership schools, utilising more of its e-learning opportunities, such as MOOCs.