



S T A F F O R D

14-19 Partnership

Stafford Partnership Update – June 2021

This year has been a very challenging year for students, parents and staff. There has been lots of upheaval, uncertainty and pressure but we believe the Partnership and the 5 Partner schools have done our very best by the students to help achieve the best they can from this crazy year.

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. Our HR Advisory service provider has been changed which provided a £500 saving. Subject leader meets, Prospectuses and travel are all unspent due to COVID19.

We have been working hard to raise the profile of the Partnership again but through very different methods this year. Our online Open Week was very successful, and we will continue to have the online presence. From this, applications this year have increased, and we have received more external applications.

Target for 2021-2022 – 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 the Partnership from outside Partner schools. Given the substantial disruption caused by the pandemic at both individual centre and Partnership level, we will need to re-establish links.

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

We were thrilled to offer new courses in our curriculum offer this year; D&T, IT (Level 3 BTEC), media, English lang/lit and sports coaching and development (Level 3 BTEC).

Given the nature of T levels and requirements for specific and costly equipment/resources it has been agreed T levels are not a viable option for the Partnership at this time.

Target for 2021-2022 – To further develop the transition visits between sites for key stage 4 students and taster sessions for sole provider subjects. Transition in the physical sense has not been possible this year. We made an online prospectus, created an online bank of course information including videos from the staff and video guides on how to apply on our website to support students. Transition activities are currently in the planning stage for delivery early June 2021. This will be dependent on the COVID 19 restrictions throughout the year. We will also be working on improving work experience opportunities. Due to extensive COVID restrictions, it was not able to take place this year.

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 continue to evolve. Individual partners have continued to monitor quality of teaching and learning and curriculum provision. Joint observations have not been possible during the past year but will commence as soon as COVID restrictions allow. Increased post-16 transition activities this year, and the raising of all aspects of challenge, will help to prepare students for their rigorous post-16 studies.



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The review and report system will continue this year and 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. The transition challenge introduced 2 years ago is now well embedded.

Target for 2021-2022 – Continue the rigorous checking of curriculums, feedback and intervention to raise standards across the Partnership. Re-establishing the subject leader meets.

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.

Unable for the most part to take part in any visits etc, partner schools have retained their proportion of the 'Raising Aspirations' funding and they will provide evidence and evaluations on the work they have been able to complete with the students. Once again, the methods used by partners to help raise aspirations for these groups may have to be different to other years. These include sending students to work-based learning and Alternative Provision sites such as ESF and hoping for work at Francesco's to resume as soon as COVID restrictions allow, as well as undertaking remote/virtual visits to universities etc.

Target for 2021-2022 – 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.

Activities and liaison that had been planned for last year and were not able to progress due to circumstances arising from the pandemic will recommence as soon as COVID restrictions allow.

4 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. With this tool, we can improve the UCAS application process across the Partnership and will utilise it to share student references more effectively across all 5 schools.

Target for 2021-2022 – Continue to develop 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.