



Collaborate, learn, improve

NSTA subject networks

It can be hugely beneficial to work with teachers of the same subject across different schools. They are experiencing the same issues, working towards the same goals and are likely to have found strategies and solutions that are worth sharing. Often just by talking through a challenge a solution presents itself, and with ideas bouncing around, groups of teachers can be really creative and innovative.

Add to this that teacher efficacy is now the number one effect size (according to John Hattie and the evidence base) i.e. the belief that a teacher group has a collective ability to promote successful student outcomes. This suggests that our networks could potentially have a very positive impact on teaching and learning in our schools.

Dates of meetings:

Tuesday 13th October, 12th January and 22nd June

These meetings have been calendared for all Alliance schools and each subject area has committed to sending one person to each meeting.

The NSTA will give suggestions for agendas however the subject network lead might decide on something different. It might be an overall theme for each meeting e.g. KS4 or KS3 assessment or you might set a focus for the year that touches on 2/3 agenda items each meeting e.g. closing the gap. It might purely be an opportunity to share good practice. There is really no set formula. You can decide if it is useful to have actions following the meeting, it might depend what, as a group, you have decided the purpose of your network is. Where previous networks have already taken place, colleagues have benefitted from valuable discussions from some or all of the following areas:

Developing strategies, and sharing ideas

Exam changes, Exam Boards and Resources

Sharing resources and exemplar material

Curriculum changes, challenges and planning

Progression through KS3-5

Assessment, and challenges through KS3-5

Subject specific training

There are often requests from alliance schools for subject specific training. The subject networks can play a role here and could source expertise. Knowledge enhancement or subject specific training could be offered once the subject networks make requests. Once the need is identified the NSTA can support with securing external trainers and charge accordingly.

Google drive

One purpose might be to share resources; especially for new specifications. There is an opportunity to share electronic resources through the use of our google drive folders. This means teachers can upload and download resources easily within their home schools.

The NSTA has a google drive folder found here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3ru9_LcbJWIS2xHcFpkMTRKcmc