

In Attendance:

Karen Wilkinson (Host)
Craig Barton
Joanna Poulton (Thornleigh)
Harriet Denning (Sharples)
Stuart Ryder (Sharples)
Becky Finch (St Joseph's Horwich)
Michael Isherwood (Little Lever)
Chris Atherton (Westhoughton)
Jessica Murphy (Westhoughton)
Jeanette Robinson (Park School)
Michael Toole (University Collegiate School)
Naomh Mackle (St James')
Roddy Martin (Smithills)
Aimee Taylor (Ladybridge)
Nicola Runcie (Thomasson Memorial)
David Eyres (Rivington and Blackrod)

Apologies

Simon Cookson (Harper Green)
Charlotte Henderson (Kings)

Minutes of Meeting

1. Gathering evidence for teacher assessed grades

Some schools are taking part in the PIXL wave to get a sense of where their students lie in relation to other schools. All schools are interested in completing a common paper in a PIXL wave type fashion and it was agreed to use November 2020 series as this has not been used by schools yet. This is also being used in the PIXL wave and so will provide more information.

Discussions were had as to how to complete these common papers. It was agreed that ideally the students would complete them in class where they are controlled, but it might be we have to do it remotely if students are not returning to school by 8th March. The validity of the papers was also discussed – some things are beyond our control, but we accepted that it should provide us with reliable results for the vast majority and so was worth exploring. We will discuss this further at our next hub meeting on 22nd March when hopefully we will have a better idea about students returning to school.

The Edexcel mock service was discussed – schools are going to look into this to see if it is still available and whether it is something they want to access.

There was lots of discussion about how schools are administering assessments remotely and there are various platforms where the assessment can be released just as the lesson starts so students cannot get access to them prior to the test. These platforms will be covered in agenda item 2.

There are concerns about what counts as 'evidence' towards these predicted grades but the consensus was that the grade descriptors for maths are not useful. Schools are gathering evidence now via classwork, online assessments, and homeworks in readiness for information that is released following the consultation.

2. Marking and feedback using remote learning

All schools have spent a lot of time exploring the online platforms and packages available to assist them in marking work and giving feedback to students. Some of the popular ones identified were:

- Desmos classroom
- Dr frost
- Mathswatch
- White rose maths
- Teachermade
- Google forms
- Microsoft OneNote
- Marking via PDF
- Whiteboard Fi

Many schools have also bought tablets and devices that allow them to share white board screens and annotate on work live in the lesson.

3. Engagement in online lessons

Craig started this agenda item by sharing a powerpoint of 5 key resources he would recommend to schools. The powerpoint has been shared separately. He also raised the point that it is better for teachers to find one good platform and resource and stick with it so as not to overload themselves and the students. It is quite demanding for everyone to have to keep changing and getting used to different websites and platforms.

We also agreed that to improve engagement, students should experience some success early on so try and have a start activity that is accessible to all and hooks the students in. Goal free questions are another way of students experiencing some success and not feeling like they are going to get the question wrong.

Generally engagement has been much better since the last lockdown because the students are in a much better routine following their timetables and accessing live lessons. The pastoral team and SLT are also invaluable in supporting attendance. Rewards have also worked in engaging some students.

Overall, schools are doing a fantastic job in these very uncertain times and our students are extremely lucky to have such hard working teachers investing in them.

We will meet again on 22nd March, 4-5pm.