



Bespoke support

Gateacre School

Gateacre School is a large 11-18 comprehensive in Liverpool. Students come into the school with levels of attainment well below national average; they also leave in Y11 with lower than average attainment. Progress in science has been identified as an issue previously.

Our support

After receiving an intensive support bursary, senior leaders met with one of our consultants to discuss their CPD needs; considerations of data and lesson observations were also made and a focus on preparing for the new KS3 curriculum was agreed.

This intensive support bursary enabled the whole department to work together with the consultant to gain knowledge and understanding of the changes to the KS3 curriculum and on the implications for teaching and learning. The whole department engaged in a day of CPD, during this day the changes to the KS3 curriculum were explored and the implications for teaching at both KS3 and 4 considered. Throughout the day the staff planned the next steps and identified priorities for going forward.

Impact on the staff's own knowledge and skills

The staff felt more confident in developing new schemes due to their increased awareness of the 'bigger picture' in science education following the CPD, and showed a greater understanding of the need to develop skills such as analysis, evaluation and problem-solving by the increased emphasis on these in schemes of learning.

Impact on classroom practice

The CPD activity was vital to the new direction of the department in terms of how schemes of learning are to be adapted. This has had a lasting impact on the procedures within the department and how scheme development is assigned to staff. A new senior leader in the school is developing this aspect further this year and building on the good work already completed.

The impact on the culture within the department has been profound, as self-reported by the team. Professional practice has improved and the department now have a clear vision of the processes that are expected of them for planning and evaluating schemes of learning. Behaviour in lessons has also improved across KS3 in comparison with last year, as seen by lesson observations and lesson pop-ins.

Impact on pupils

The impact in this area been significant as a result of the CPD, KS3 students are generally more motivated and engaged. It is also reported that poor behaviour incidents have decreased where the new changes have been embraced.

This opportunity would have been unlikely without external funding for both the CPD and the cover costs to release the whole department from the intensive support bursary.