

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CPD AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



SLE PROFILE:

Alex Martin - SLE for Science - Chiltern Learning Trust
Alex has been working as an SLE since September 2017 as well continuing his role as assistant teaching and learning leader for science, a post held for almost two years prior to this. He also has a great level of experience in initial teacher training due to his role as a mentor and, more recently, as subject coordinator for science for Chiltern Training Group.

QUOTES: "Alex has trained the head of department in curriculum planning by modelling the process. Once there is time and capacity in the department the HOD is confident to be able to train staff and share responsibility for curriculum planning for next year."
"Alex has worked with a class on core practical activities that are being taught by cover or supply staff. Alex has also created and shared resources that have had a positive impact in class as teachers are able to quickly and easily use these to revise core practicals."

METHOD: HOW?

Initially time was spent with the Head of Department which allowed Alex to understand the needs of the department in greater depth. He established that he needed to split his time to spend half of it working in the department to aid curriculum development and time independently working on appropriate resources to support both pupils and teachers. Methods used included team teaching to support required practical delivery, CPD with the Head of Department, providing opportunities for observation and delivering intervention sessions for a small group of boys to support aspiration.

FOCUS FOR SUPPORT:

The recent changes in the science curriculum meant that curriculum development for the department was the main priority. With the Head of Department taking over in April of the previous academic year, there had been little time to prepare full appropriate schemes of work for the new curriculum and resources to support the teaching of the new required practical activities. There was also a core group of able boys who were lacking aspiration and motivation that needed some targeted support.

BACKGROUND OF SCHOOL:

The school supported is a mixed secondary containing approximately 640 pupils that had recently become part of a multi-academy trust. The science department had recently appointed a new Head of Department and contains many long serving staff with a very experienced second in department.

Continue to work closely with the Head of Department to build resources to support the new curriculum and provide more tailored CPD to the teachers within the department.

PURPOSE

AIMS

RATIONALE

WHAT + WHY

The department is becoming more resourced with material to support the teaching of core practicals with teachers becoming more confident in delivering lessons that provide suitable preparation for examinations. The Head of Department also has more time to manage the department and focus on monitoring pupils as there is less need for him to spend time preparing resources. The group of boys are becoming more confident in their ability and are showing more interest in the subject and a greater willingness to complete tasks that will aid their learning. The overall impact will be seen when the first round of GCSEs are taken in the summer of 2018 but learning walks of lessons and feedback from the Head of Department have indicated that teaching and learning of the required practical section is improving. Internal assessments of Alex's intervention group are showing signs of improvement as has their ability to apply knowledge to unfamiliar situations.

IMPACT / RESULTS:

NEXT STEPS:

Alex found the whole experience hugely useful and a great learning curve as there were lots of possible routes that could be taken to support this department. Whilst there has been an obvious benefit to the work that has been carried out Alex thinks it will be important to be more decisive about the route he proposes to take much earlier on and stick to this to ensure that there is never a situation where projects are incomplete due to a change in focus or a more demanding workload. A really encouraging factor of this work was the positive relationship that is shared between Alex and the Head of Department; perhaps this has been paramount in achieving what has occurred so far.

EVALUATION: