Challenge Partners and the power of peer review

Dame Sue John Executive Director
Our goal is to reduce educational inequality and improve the life chances of all children.

Through collaboration, challenge and professional development, we are working to ensure every school community can benefit from the combined wisdom of the whole system.
We are working to achieve upwards convergence in school and pupil performance.

Credit: Professor Sir George Berwick
Our activities are defined by five key principles
We have a clear methodology based on over 20 years’ work

- We are practitioner-led and engaged
- We share and improve best practice
- We are a national network of local partnerships
- We create effective and sustainable solutions
- We access the best from education and business
We are an inclusive network united by moral purpose
Which is why we have all phases, governance type and context…

431 SCHOOLS

Secondary: 18%
Primary: 21%
Special and AP: 4%
Other (all-through, middle, 16+): 57%

WE HAVE ALL GOVERNANCE TYPES

Academy: 47%
Maintained: 53%
In 2018/19 we have:

**431 schools**

representing over...

**200,000 pupils**

within

**35 hubs**
### Pupils in our schools attain better and progress faster

#### Our pupils attain results above the national average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Partnership average</th>
<th>National average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected standard reading, writing and maths</td>
<td>66% (+2.0%)</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attainment 8</td>
<td>48.3pts (+1.1pts)</td>
<td>47.2pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### More of our pupils are progressing above the national average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Partnership average</th>
<th>Progress measures compared with national average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>+0.2</td>
<td>20% in the top 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>+0.4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>+0.5</td>
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#### The gap between our disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils is smaller than the national average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Partnership gap</th>
<th>National gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected standards (reading/writing/maths) gap</td>
<td>15% (-5%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attainment 8</td>
<td>5.1pts</td>
<td>13.4pts</td>
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</table>
Our schools are more likely to improve their Ofsted rating

In 2017-18, Ofsted inspected 65 schools which had been part of Challenge Partners for a year or more. Here are some of the highlights:

48% improved their Ofsted grade compared to 34% nationally. The figure increases to 52% for schools who have been in the Network of Excellence for at least three years.

22% rated Good in their previous inspection moved to Outstanding, compared to 9% nationally.

74% of schools rated Requires Improvement in their previous inspection moved to Good, compared to 63% nationally. The figure increases to 79% for schools in the network for three or more years.
Network of Excellence

**Challenge and support** for your school

- **QA Review**
  - An annual peer review
  - CPD for senior leaders to train and review other schools
  - Accreditation of areas of excellence in your school

- **School support**
  - Follow-up after your QA Review
  - Access to support from schools across the country
  - Online directory listing accredited areas of excellence

**Supporting local collaboration**

- **Funding for your local partnership**
  To facilitate collaboration on locally-agreed priorities

**Be part of a national community**

- **Helping you identify and connect with best practice**
  - Places at national events
  - Leadership Development Days
  - Fortnightly emails
  - Regular case studies
  - Discounts from partners

- **Shared leadership of common challenges**
  - Collective problem-solving through phase or theme specific forums
  - Share emerging practice
  - Contribute to research
  - National policy platform
Moving knowledge using Peer Reviews

Challenge Partners’ Peer Reviews involve schools sending trained senior leaders to review other schools across the country. 1,800 peer reviews have taken place since 2011.
Quality Assurance Review

Peer audit that provides the opportunity for schools to be reviewed through an open, challenging process which supports learning and reflection

- Occurs annually over 2.5 days
- Conducted by a team of heads and senior leaders from outside your local hub and led by an Ofsted-experienced inspector
- All review activities are joint and all outputs are agreed with the school
- Development opportunity for those reviewing the schools who receive training and feedback

It is how the schools in Challenge Partners challenge each other to determine what support they might require and who can provide it.

4.7 out of 5
Average feedback score for QA Review from heads & reviewers
How the Quality Assurance Review works

**REVIEW TEAM**

Lead Reviewer
Ofsted-experienced

Reviewers
Senior leaders from across the partnership

Size of review team depends on size of host school

**REVIEW**

Review team and host school’s SLT review school collaboratively — ‘one team, two parts’

**REVIEW REPORT**

What Went Well
What are my strengths?

Even Better If
Where can I improve?

Area of Excellence
What can I share?

Review report is shared with Central Team and Hub Manager to enable follow-on support
What happens after the Quality Assurance Review?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEW REPORT</th>
<th>SUPPORT FROM YOUR HUB</th>
<th>SUPPORT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Gear] Even Better If Where can I improve?</td>
<td>![People] Hub meetings Share challenges, identify solutions</td>
<td>![Calendar] Leadership Development Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Award] Area of Excellence What can I share?</td>
<td></td>
<td>![Phone] Contact us</td>
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Pilot programmes

Growing the Top – Stand-Out Schools

- For high-performing schools looking to develop further
- Facilitated trio visits exploring systemic excellence and systemic challenges
- Cohort days showcasing approaches from HE, independent schools and business
- Independently evaluated by Professor Peter Matthews, IOE

MAT peer Quality Assurance Review

- Expert-facilitated MAT-to-MAT peer review
- Sharp focus on school improvement and impact MAT has on outcomes
- Assesses MAT against its own strategic objectives, not a pre-defined framework
- Captures and shares effective practice; identifies areas for improvement
- Provides powerful CPD for reviewers
Joining the Network of Excellence

- £7.20 per pupil – £2978 minimum fee; £9800 maximum fee
- 2-year subscription available for small schools
- Additional benefits for schools in the network for 4 years or more
- 10% discount for MATs, TSAs and Area Education Partnerships paying £20,000 or more
- Price includes:
  - An annual, expert-led peer Quality Assurance Review (QAR)
  - CPD for headteachers and leaders
  - Funding for local collaborative activities
  - Access to excellent practice in schools across England through our online School Support Directory, detailing accredited Areas of Excellence in our partner schools
  - Fortnightly newsletter
  - Opportunity to participate in other national and local events, programmes and networks at a reduced rate or no additional charge - including our National Conference, Leadership Development Days, and funded hub-led events taking place across the country
  - Membership resources in our members-only area of the website