

NORTHERN ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

September 2019

NORTHERN ALLIANCE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: PHASE 3 – UPDATE



Northern
Alliance

At the beginning of term, we circulated a survey to gather opinions to help develop Phase 3 of the Regional Improvement Plan. Thank you to everyone who took part in the survey in the short timescale.

Responses were considered during our Strategic Planning Day at the end of August which saw Northern Alliance colleagues come together with Education Scotland's Northern Team to look at shaping the plan for the next phase.

A summary of the survey responses can be viewed [here](#).

Key points from survey responses include:

- **Top areas for professional learning support:**
 1. Developing the Curriculum
 2. Assessment & Moderation
 3. Aspects of Numeracy
 4. Aspects of Literacy
- **Top areas that would benefit from regional collaboration:**
 1. Numeracy & Mathematics
 2. Health & Wellbeing
- **What you want your school to gain from the Regional Improvement Collaborative:**
 1. Learning from other schools' good practice
 2. Improving performance through working together on shared strategies.
- **Using Glow as a sharing platform for information and learning:**
 - Frequent responses include: General training/refresher training.
- **Support required to engage more effectively with the Collaborative:**
 - Time
 - Effective communication
 - Workshops
 - Regular updates and direct communication.

The Regional Improvement Plan has been streamlined and will focus on four key areas: **Curriculum**, **Raising Attainment and Closing the Poverty Related Gap**, **Sustaining Education in Our Communities**, and **Leadership**. The draft plan has received positive initial feedback from Education Scotland and will be circulated once finalised.

SCOTTISH LEARNING FESTIVAL

A reminder to all that this year at the Scottish Learning Festival (25th-26th September) at the SEC in Glasgow, there will be a '**Regional Improvement Collaborative Village Green**' for attendees to come along and find out more about future plans for the Northern Alliance. Please come along and chat with us at the following times.

- **Wed 25th Sept – 10:45-11:45**
- **Thurs 26th Sept – 14:30 – 15:15**



TAKE PART IN THE SCOTTISH LEARNING FESTIVAL FROM ABERDEEN OR VIA SKYPE

Alternatively, you can join us at the brand new **Northern Alliance Learning Hub in the MacRobert Building at the University of Aberdeen on 25th September** as we link up with the Scottish Learning Festival live to inspire our discussion and collaborative working around the key theme of education change and leadership.

Attendees can choose between the afternoon or twilight session, with the option to choose both should you wish. With 40 places at each session we hope to facilitate an opportunity for you to work collaboratively with peers from across the Northern Alliance, University of Aberdeen and Education Scotland.

For the full programme and to register attendance, click on the links below:

- **Afternoon Session:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-alliance-learning-hub-at-slf-tickets-71804686751> *
- **Twilight Session:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northern-alliance-learning-hub-at-slf-twilight-tickets-72050020551>

*N.B. you can also join the afternoon session by skype – if this option is for you, please email jenny.foxen@aberdeenshire.gov.uk for the connection details.

IMPROVING NATIONAL 5 MATHS CONFERENCE

A great professional learning opportunity for maths teachers is scheduled for **Saturday 28th Sept at Millburn Academy, Inverness**. In partnership with Education Scotland, the N5 conference offers workshops on the national standard, improving pedagogy, BGE pathways and more.

Come and meet the Maths & Numeracy Northern Team: Iona Coutts and Andy Brown (Education Scotland) and Andy Thompson (Lead Officer Numeracy and Maths, Northern Alliance).

The conference is now FULLY BOOKED, however relevant conference materials will be uploaded to the National Qualifications section of the Northern Alliance Maths Glow Page.