

KS4/KS5 Updates 2018 - Wales

Alps in Wales

We are delighted to be working with every Welsh LA with sixth form provision via LA and Consortia projects in 2017-18.

It has been an amazing year for us. Since August we have delivered over 480 reports to more than 150 schools, colleges and partnerships in Wales. We have delivered over 164 training sessions in individual schools, LAs and consortia partnerships. We have also provided strategic KS5 analysis for all four Consortia and with the LAs to enable the spread of KS5 curriculum excellence. The aim is always to support our colleagues to make the most of the Alps report analysis and develop practical strategies for improvement.

Below is a summary of the steps we are taking to ensure our reports and training continue to be relevant for schools and colleges in Wales during the academic year ahead.

1. Benchmarks and target setting 2018

The Alps benchmarks and therefore Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for KS5 will remain unchanged for 2018, allowing you to analyse relative performance trends over time. All the information on the Alps benchmarks and Alps MEGs are available in your Alps reports.

2. Target setting and monitoring of new 2016 BTEC Qualification Suite

If you are offering the new 2016 BTEC Suite, the situation in 2018 will be complicated because the new BTEC Suite of L3 qualifications will be awarded alongside the current suite.

We recommend that you still use the current MEGs for students starting in 2017 & 2018. The 2016 BTEC qualifications have had some uncertainty since their launch and the recent announcement of allowing additional resits has added to the complex picture. While many anticipate that overall results will drop, the amount by which this may occur is unknown. For this reason, we believe it is in the best interests of students to continue with the current MEGs until data is available that will enable schools and college to understand the impact of the reforms.

3. BTEC Reports 2018

The 'old' 2010 BTEC qualifications will continue to use the existing benchmarks as there is no evidence of a significant shift in the national data.

Please note that the 2016 'new' BTECs with external assessments will not have a benchmark in the 2018 BTEC report initially, as there is no data against which to produce benchmarks for these new courses.

We will be reviewing our client data, and if we have sufficient, robust, data with which to produce subject level benchmarks we will do so and update those schools and colleges affected in the Autumn term 2018. If there is insufficient client data we will use the DfE datasets we receive and be able to update the benchmarks in Spring 2019.

We will produce benchmarks for the 1 year Certificate and Foundation Diploma courses for which there is sufficient data to do so from the 2017 DfE data set that we receive, and these will be available in the 2018 reports.

...continued overleaf



The Student Centred Approach



KS4 & KS5 Performance Systems



4. Alps Connect Interactive

Alps Connect is our new web-based interactive reporting platform, allowing internal analysis using our familiar Alps benchmarks and established methodology via simple yet accessible new tools. We are delighted with the number of schools and colleges who have subscribed to Alps Connect Interactive this year. Using Connect every member of staff can have access to their own teaching set analyses. This will empower your staff to really engage with and understand their own data, understanding which students are on target, and who needs strategic intervention. Connect Interactive allows you to analyse as many in-year monitoring data points as you wish, so you can tailor it to your school or college needs.

Connect Interactive will also allow you and all staff to:

- Analyse your data by gender, ethnicity, teaching set, tutor groups and other custom fields
- Carry out in-depth departmental analysis – including interactive ‘what if’ functionality – to model how many grades would have been needed to move into the Black or into the Red
- Identify the areas of both celebration and concern or intervention; by
 - > Student
 - > Subject
 - > Teaching Set
 - > Gender, ethnicity, SEN or other custom field
- Create bespoke reports e.g. for governors

See our website to book onto free webinars on using Connect effectively.

5. Connect Data – Launching Spring 2018 for Wales

Connect Data is our new service to integrate uploading data into Connect Interactive or to produce the traditional Alps Reports and will replace the existing Alps Data Collection Software (ADCS) by Summer 2018. This new online service will simplify the process for submitting data and will enable our analysis to be directly available to you. Student data can be uploaded at the beginning of the year and then you can just add the grades at each monitoring point. If you have pre-loaded the student data, on results day, only the subject and grades will need to be added to be able to see your Alps analysis directly.

6. Connect Features – update

We are working hard developing a number of exciting new features in Connect which will be released over the coming months, including:

- Printing and exporting across specific areas of Connect
- Fine grades – for those schools / colleges using a fine grades system. Connect will soon allow the input of fine grades
- Monitoring accuracy – a powerful and smart tool designed to monitor prediction accuracy
- Custom student groups – allows you to define custom groups, for example, SEND

Please see our website for up to date information on Connect feature updates: www.alps-va.co.uk/Connect

7. Alps at KS4 for Wales – Now available!

We are delighted to now be able to offer Alps KS4 analysis for Wales.

We have developed a Welsh KS4 report using Year 8 WNT as a baseline and the familiar 11 prior achievement bands. The KS4 report includes the standard analysis you will be used to seeing in your KS5 reports e.g. strategic analysis, student, subject and banded by ability data and contains additional analysis including eFSM analysis, gender analysis, and teaching set analysis for every subject, allowing your school to develop a common language across both KS4 & KS5.

Introductory Offer – we are offering all Welsh schools for £500 plus VAT per school:

- 2017 KS4 report
- Strategic Review Meeting based on your report
- Connect at KS4 – enabling interactive monitoring analysis at KS4

If you are interested in this offer please contact our office – details below.

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like further information, we are at the end of the telephone Monday to Friday 9am-5pm – 01484 887600 or you can email us at info@alps-va.co.uk. Please visit our website for more information at www.alps-va.co.uk