

FFT Aspire Autumn Bulletin for Secondary schools

Welcome

Welcome to the new academic year and the latest FFT Aspire bulletin for secondary schools. This bulletin will help you prepare for the autumn term and contains details of the following important changes in your school's FFT Aspire system:

- Roll forward of Year Groups
- Addition of '9-1' grades for target-setting at KS4
- Assigning students to subjects

Roll forward of Year Groups

As part of the August release, year groups in your FFT Aspire system have been rolled forward for the new 2015/16 academic year. This will mean that from September 2015, pupils will be in their correct year groups (e.g. Year 9 pupils in 2014/15 will be rolled forward to Year 10). Please be aware of two important issues relating to the roll forward:

- i) New year groups, such as Year 7 and Year 12, will initially be empty until pupil data is either imported manually by schools or updated by FFT in January 2016 using the 2015 autumn census data. For further details on how to import new pupil groups, please refer to the 'Importing Pupils' guidance notes in the [FFT Aspire Help Centre](#)
- ii) Year groups that 'drop off', i.e. your 2015 Year 11 cohort, will still be available in the Target Setting area of Aspire in the early autumn term. These year groups will not be deleted until 2015 results are made available in the Aspire Self Evaluation dashboards.

Manually importing year groups and individual pupils

Manually importing new pupils allows FFT Aspire to cross-reference these pupils with the National Pupil Database. This provides schools with a full term by term history for each pupil including prior attainment, attendance, previous schools and other context data. This data is available in the Student Explorer area of Aspire.

For pupils that have a 2015 national curriculum test/teacher assessment, the results for these imported pupils, along with their FFT benchmark estimates, will be available by the middle of September for Y7 pupils and end of October for Y12 pupils (subject to DFE release of provisional 2015 results).

Assigning student to subjects

Using a simple matrix, schools can now allocate KS4 and KS5 students to subjects within Aspire. This will mean that only the 35 students studying Geography will appear on the Geography benchmark and target setting page in FFT Aspire. In addition, any aggregated estimates and targets for subjects will only be calculated based on the students assigned to these subjects by the school.

Change to '9-1' for target-setting at KS4

As traditional A*-G GCSEs start to move to the new 9-1 scale (English and Maths are first in the queue) Aspire now includes both options, A*-G and 9-1, in Aspire Target Setting. Schools will be able to decide which option they use to view FFT benchmark estimates and set targets for pupils. This will be subject and Year group specific and can be amended by your Aspire administrator using the Aspire Administration site (admin.fftaspire.org).

Further help preparing and using FFT Aspire in your school

To support schools with using FFT Aspire for target setting in the autumn term, we have released a simple flow chart which summarises the main points above. This can be found on the following page. Detailed guidance on both the administration and use of FFT Aspire can also be accessed directly from the [Help Centre in our Aspire administration site](http://admin.fftaspire.org) (admin.fftaspire.org) as well as our main [Help Centre in Aspire](http://fftaspire.org) (fftaspire.org).

Aspire to Achieve Conference 2015

Finally, after the success of our first FFT Aspire to Achieve conference last year, we are holding another set of conferences in November. The conference will be an opportunity to delve deeper into the new FFT Aspire system for schools, including the new Student Explorer, Collaborate and Target Setting modules. You will also hear examples of best practice from schools across England, as well as seeing some of the latest practical research from Education Datalab, our new centre of excellence for quantitative research in education. If you are interested in booking a place, further details can be found on our main FFT site - <http://www.fft.org.uk/training-events/Conference2015.aspx>

