

Directors of Education

30 September 2013

Dear Director,

Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool - Preview Edition

The Scottish Government is committed to working closely with local authorities, secondary schools and other partners in developing the Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool. I wrote to you in July providing local authorities the opportunity to access early prototypes of the Tool. We are now releasing our Preview Edition and inviting secondary schools to familiarise themselves with the features and provide feedback.

I am writing to ask you to assist with allocating login details to secondary schools and encourage feedback from a wide range of teaching staff. The Tool will replace STACs (Standard Tables and Charts) and will go live in August 2014. It will be available to a wider range of staff including classroom teachers, principal teachers, head teachers and deputies and we are therefore keen for schools to get involved at the development stages.

You can find more information about the Tool at: www.scotland.gov.uk/seniorphasebenchmarking

The Preview Edition

The development of the Tool is a work in progress and the data shown in the early prototype editions is to help with testing and should not be used for analytical purposes. Please note the Preview Edition will initially show 2012 data for attainment and the 2013 data will be added by the end of October.

The Preview Edition includes a number of enhancements over the Early Adopter Edition, many of which are in response to feedback from stakeholders. The Preview Edition will include:

- Awards data for 2013 (available from end of October 2013)
- Measures of curricular areas as well as graded and ungraded courses
- Virtual comparator with updated methodology
- Wider awards (SQA and some Youth Scotland)

More information about what will be included in future releases is available at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/seniorphasebenchmarking/background

Accessing the Preview Edition

The Preview Edition can be accessed by both local authorities and secondary schools at:
<http://spbt.scotxed.net>

More information will be available on the login page including:

- Information about the data included
- A basic user guide for navigating around the Tool
- Technical information about the data
- Link to feedback questionnaire

Process for allocating login details to secondary schools

We have provisioned three accounts for each secondary school and the login details are based on individual SEED codes. Users are encouraged to change their passwords when they first logon.

Login: <seedcode>.nn where nn is a two digit number between 01 and 03

Password: mznxbcV3

Local authority access to Preview Edition

The six accounts allocated for each local authority for the Early Adopter Edition still remain and the same login and password can be used to access the Preview Edition. If your local authority has not yet requested their login details please contact us at spbt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Case studies

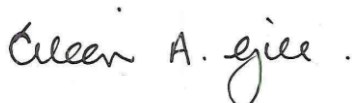
We are keen to develop case studies to demonstrate how local authorities and schools can make best use of the new tool, particularly in working with classroom teachers who generally have not had direct access to STACs in the past. If you are interested in helping us develop case studies then please get in touch.

Further information

Please visit www.scotland.gov.uk/seniorphasebenchmarking for more information or if you have any queries please contact myself and the project team via spbt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Regards,

Yours sincerely,



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Project Manager

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