

# Report

Report to:	<b>Education Resources Committee</b>
Date of Report:	<b>2 May 2023</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Pilot Hybrid Learning Programme 2023/2024</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the pilot hybrid learning programme to widen access to Advanced Highers for session 2023/2024

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the Education Resources' proposal to widening access to courses and learning via the pilot hybrid learning programme for 2023/2024 is noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. A key South Lanarkshire Education Resources commitment is for schools to provide individualised and personalised learner pathways through each school's curriculum offer and design.
- 3.2. This commitment also endeavours to widen access to courses and learning experiences for all learners in all secondary schools and, if necessary and wherever possible, through a consortium arrangement in order to meet the needs of the learner.
- 3.3. Currently there are consortium arrangements in place across SLC Secondary schools for learners who wish to study Advanced Higher subjects which are not offered in their own school.
- 3.4. While these arrangements have been successful to date, attending another school has implications for: the learners' other subjects in their base school; sustainability and the environmental impact of travel; and the cost of such arrangements. Learners currently travel by taxi to another school, usually in the same locality, 2 to 3 times per week to study their chosen subject. As they stand, consortium arrangements are also less accessible for more rural schools, leading to inequity of access across SLC.
- 3.5. During the pandemic, the digital skills of staff and the availability of appropriate technologies have progressed significantly. As such, a digital solution to widening access to learning has been developed.
- 3.6. In discussion with secondary headteachers and curriculum planners, a pilot hybrid learning programme will be implemented in the coming school session. This will follow the existing principles and practices for Advanced Higher consortium arrangements

but will enable learners to participate in lessons through remote access from their own school buildings, and from home.

- 3.7. To this end, Education Resources will equip each of the 17 mainstream Secondary schools with the necessary IT equipment to facilitate learning to be delivered from schools to learners across South Lanarkshire.

#### **4. Purpose/Summary of aims and expected outcomes**

- 4.1. The purpose of the SLC hybrid learning programme is to widen access to high quality learning and teaching for all learners in Secondary schools.
- 4.2. Participating host schools will deliver Advanced Higher subjects in session 2023-24 with a view to extending the number of schools involved, and the range and type of courses and programmes offered, in future sessions. (See appendix 1).
- 4.3. Schools will include the subjects on offer in their option choices for 2023-24.
- 4.4. The sessions will be delivered on a Tuesday and a Thursday afternoon.
- 4.5. In order to provide a high-quality learning experience for the learners, specialist IT equipment is being installed, funded by the local authority.
- 4.6. Central support and co-ordination of the subjects offered will be provided by Education Resources, as well as Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) on equipment usage and effective virtual learning and teaching approaches.
- 4.7. An additional 'in person' element of each subject e.g. practical work will also be provided for candidates. This will vary from subject to subject according to the requirements and needs of each course.
- 4.8. Advanced Higher classes will include learners from the 'host' school who will attend the class in person, as well as learners from other schools across SLC joining online. Class sizes will continue to conform to Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) agreements.
- 4.9. During 2023-24, the existing arrangements will remain available for subjects that are not offered as part of the hybrid learning pilot.

#### **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1. Procurement and installation of the required equipment (Appendix 2) is currently under way.
- 5.2. Timing and timetabling arrangements have been agreed by secondary headteachers to provide alignment of teaching times.
- 5.3. The existing operational consortium arrangements regarding tracking and monitoring of progress, reporting and attendance will remain in place for this programme.
- 5.4. CLPL for staff is being developed relating both to using the equipment and to effective learning strategies for online learning.
- 5.5. Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the programme have been agreed. Information for parents/carers and a learner "agreement" will be included.

- 5.6. Requirements for face-to-face element for each subject are being developed in conjunction with class teachers delivering the subject.
- 5.7. Teacher professional associations have been consulted on the proposed arrangements.
- 5.8. Regular reviews and feedback from schools, teachers, learners, and their families will inform and shape the development of this programme with the intent on establishing an extended SLC Hybrid Learning Academy from 2024-25 and beyond.
- 5.9. Education Resources will work closely with senior school leaders to finalise the operational aspects of the Learning Academy to ensure maximum impact for the learners who will participate.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The investment costs for the supply and installation of the equipment costs are approximately £11,500 per school and can be met from existing budgetary provision.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. A hybrid approach to Advanced Higher learning (two sessions per week online plus identified slots for face-to-face contact with the class teacher) will reduce the environmental impact of road transport through taxi usage in the current consortium model for Advanced Highers.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. This report does not present a new strategy, policy or plan and is, therefore, not subject to equality impact assessment.
- 9.2. There was no requirement to undertake any formal consultation in terms of the information contained within this report but to note that dialogue has taken place with headteachers, the professional associations and that this will continue as we monitor and assess the impact of the 'Learning Academy'.

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources Resources)**

4 April 2023

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Education and learning: inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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## Appendix 1

### SLC HYBRID LEARNING ACADEMY ADVANCED HIGHER 2023-24

SCHOOL	Subject
Calderside Academy	Biology
Strathaven Academy	PE
Calderglen High School	French
Calderglen High School	Physics
Duncanrig Secondary School	Graphic Communication
Carluke High School	Health and Food Technology
Carluke High School	Higher Psychology
Carluke High School	National 5 Psychology
Lesmahagow High School	RMPS
Lanark Grammar School	Geography
Trinity High School	Computing Science
Uddingston Grammar	Maths
Biggar High School	Higher Politics
Larkhall Academy	History

## Appendix 2

### IT equipment

SLC provision	School provision	Optional (school provision)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promethean interactive board &amp; trolley (75")</li><li>• Extended 'dial-in' screen (70" fixed to rear wall*)</li><li>• Confidence preview monitor (32" suspended from ceiling)</li><li>• Tracking camera (rear)</li><li>• Fixed camera (front)</li><li>• Ceiling microphones</li><li>• Black audio mixer console, switch, cabling</li><li>• Install &amp; support</li><li>• <u>SPiE</u> works</li><li>• Staff training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CC4 Desktop or Laptop</li><li>• Suitable desk/table to accommodate desktop or laptop &amp; black audio mixer console</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visualiser – <i>must be available at time of system install</i></li></ul>