



What's on offer through S7?

www.s7colleges.com

The S7 website is your one-stop shop for accessing all the opportunities that the S7 Consortium has to offer.

What's Out There?

Through the S7 website, you can find details of all the forthcoming events and development opportunities that S7 has to offer. You can register your interest through the site for any of the courses that we run: many are one-off development days and half days, organised in response to your identified needs and requests.

Through the website you can also access the S7 Talk, which is the Teaching and Learning Kit - or shared VLE - for the consortium colleges. Here you will find the discussion forums which have been set up in response to requests from staff and it is here that you can develop an online community, together with colleagues from across the S7 Colleges.

In time, the S7 Talk site will become the portal through which we are able to link up the Virtual Learning Environments of each of the S7 Colleges, allowing true collaboration of resources and approaches amongst ourselves.

What Else Is On Offer?

Through the Peer Review and Development project that we are running together with the new Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), we are funding quality sharing and development opportunities for all S7 staff who would like to take advantage of them. Details of these are overleaf.





1) Exchange Opportunities

Exchanges are a two-way process where two members of staff in similar or related roles in two S7 Colleges arrange to visit one another and to share some information about their areas' achievements, outcomes and priorities. The nature of the dialogue is very much about a two-way exchange of ideas and approaches.

2) Visit Opportunities

S7 Visits have been a really successful tool in recent years for staff who have been looking to reflect on their own practice by arranging a one day visit to a similar area in another S7 College. Often these visits can be very informally set up, with good talking and sharing between consortium colleagues being central to the effectiveness of the day. The difference between a Visit and an Exchange is that there is no expectation of any particular type of information sharing and gathering on a Visit, or for a reciprocal visit from the host, unless they would like to.

For both Visits and Exchanges, a small fee of £100 is accredited to the hosting department's funds from S7 as a token for the time and effort involved in providing the space to share thoughts and approaches with colleagues.

3) Quality Sharing Opportunities

Most recently, we have introduced a new opportunity for sharing good practice amongst consortium colleges called simply Quality Sharing. This is a chance for any member of S7 staff to request specific support in tackling a particular project, implementation, idea, strategy or area of concern for development. This request will be pooled amongst S7 with a best match found to work together in partnership towards a solution.

What Do I Need to Do?

For both Visits and Exchanges, you need to go to www.s7colleges.com and click on **Visits & Exchanges** in the left hand navigation bar. Here you will find the documented procedures for going ahead with a Visit or Exchange and it is here that you can register online for an opportunity.

For developing thoughts and ideas through a Quality Sharing input, you will need to register your interest in-house with your senior staff with responsibility for staff development and quality.

Do make the most of the opportunities available to you. Visit the website today!

