

## SMART Spaces Revision Programme

### What is this about?

Queen's University Belfast and Hallam Teaching School Alliance (the "project team") are working together on SMART Spaces, a project funded by Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Wellcome Foundation, which aims to improve revision skills in chemistry and raise GCSE science grades. The effectiveness of the project will be evaluated by a team from UCL Institute of Education (the "evaluation team"). **This is a rare opportunity to use research to improve science revision in your school!**

### What will the project look like?

The project is investigating the effect of a revision programme in the chemistry element of the GCSE double award science. The project will involve all the year 11 double award science classes from around 125 schools during 2018-19. Science teachers in intervention schools (see below) will participate in a half-day, or twilight, training session at, or near to, your school during the Spring term 2019. Each science teacher will also receive a coaching observation visit from a SMART Spaces tutor during the Summer term 2019 together with a SMART Spaces handbook, materials, resources and presentations. Teachers will deliver the revision programme in six lessons over a two-week period during May 2019 just before the GCSE science examination. The programme is designed to improve your students' revision of 'double award' chemistry. A pilot study published by the EEF in 2017 indicated that the SMART Spaces revision programme had promise.

### What are 'intervention' and 'comparison' schools?

An important element of these EEF projects is that schools interested in participating are randomly allocated to either the intervention group, who will receive the training, or a comparison group, who contribute to the data required for comparison. It is important that all interested schools understand that they could be in either group. ***It is important that you understand you could be a comparison school.***

### What commitment would this project require?

If you are an 'intervention' school, you would need to commit to:

- provide student profile and attainment data and UPNs;
- allowing all teachers, who teach the chemistry content of double science, to attend a training session in October 2018 – January 2019, and to take part in a coaching/observation visit during January 2019 – March 2019;
- deliver the revision programme to all Y11 double award GCSE science classes during May 2019;
- all teachers and Head of Science will be invited to complete a questionnaire;
- facilitate a short questionnaire for GCSE double award students in May 2019 just before the GCSE science examination;
- provide GCSE Chemistry UMS sub-score and item scores for students who completed the double award GCSE in 2019;
- some schools will be invited to take part as case study schools by the evaluation team during the Summer term 2019.

If you are a 'comparison' school, you would need to commit to:

- provide student profile and attainment data and UPNs;
- facilitate a short questionnaire for GCSE double award students in May 2019 just before the GCSE science examination;
- provide GCSE Chemistry UMS sub-score and item scores for students who completed the double award GCSE in 2019;
- all teachers and Heads of Science will be invited to complete a questionnaire;
- some schools will be invited to take part as case study schools by the evaluation team during the Summer term 2019.

### Finances

- Schools in the **intervention** group will receive the SMART Spaces training, coaching and materials free of charge;
- Schools in the **comparison** group will receive a £1000 payment after the project is complete.

Please complete the Memorandum of Understanding attached if you would like your school to participate in this trial and return it to Maria Cockerill: [maria.cockerill@qub.ac.uk](mailto:maria.cockerill@qub.ac.uk)