

Northampton Town Partner Schools

IMPACT: ONE YEAR ON

EdisonLearning was commissioned initially by the Northamptonshire Local Authority in conjunction with the Northampton Town Area Improvement Partnership (AIP) to work with 16 primary schools and three secondary schools from September 2008. Six of the primary schools were in need of urgent intervention. An additional secondary school and a further primary school joined the programme in the course of the academic year.

The partnership involves working across the five strands of the EdisonLearning Design within a framework of network and development days that buttress planning and support the follow through to action, with the aim of building capacity in the school rather than making a 'quick fix'.

EdisonLearning has worked closely with the AIP Strategic Group (which comprises representatives of both schools and the local authority) to monitor and evaluate the impact of our work, and on other initiatives including a town wide Quality Framework for Teaching for Learning and an innovative project with one secondary and seven primary schools to develop outstanding practice.

The Primary Schools

TABLE 1: ATTAINMENT OF 16 NORTHAMPTON TOWN PARTNER SCHOOLS

LEVELS	2007	2008	2009
English L4+	69.50%	72.31%	72.69%
English L5	20.75%	17.25%	18.56%
Maths L4+	64.94%	67.81%	70.81%
Maths L5	19.44%	18.75%	23.88%
Science L4+	78.00%	81.50%	85.94%
Science L5	31.63%	32.13%	34.81%

(*Nationally there was a 1% drop in L4+ English)

Table 1 shows the trend in attainment across the schools as measured by KS2 SAT results.

The 2009 SATs were taken approximately nine months into the partnership with EdisonLearning. One school has been omitted because the changes in impacted on their capacity which, in turn, prevented effective implementation of the partnership.

It will be noted that 2009 results bettered 2008 results in every aspect.

If the data for the omitted school is included, five of these six indicators improved from 2008.

English Level 4+ was 0.27% lower – compared to 1% lower nationally.

Closing the Gap

Table 2 shows the overall mean after combining the percentages of children achieving Level 4+ in English, Mathematics and Science. Again one school has been omitted for the reasons stated above. This shows improvements in both 2008 and 2009, with most of the improvement coinciding with the period of partnering with EdisonLearning.

TABLE 2:
OVERALL COMBINED MEAN PERCENTAGE LEVEL 4+ ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE VERSUS THE NATIONAL TREND IN KS2 SATS

	2007	2008	2009
Northampton Town Partner Schools	212.44	221.63	229.44
National	245	248	247
Difference	-32.56	-26.38	-17.56

[If the data for the omitted school is included there was still a narrowing of the gap to 19.06 between 2008 and 2009]

Contextual Value Added

Averaging the CVA figure across the schools there has been a year on year improvement from 98.91 in 2007 to 99.06 in 2008 to 99.66 in 2009. As a crude yardstick the 2008 mean would be equivalent to an individual school performing at around the 20th percentile rank while the 2009 figure would be the equivalent to a school performing around the 35th percentile. The improvement has been most marked for the set of high priority schools identified by the local authority.

Ofsted Inspections

From September 2008 to the time of preparing this report (February 2010) 10 of the 17 primary schools have had successful full inspections. Three schools were removed from 'Notice to Improve' and two of the schools were judged 'Good' with 'Outstanding' features.

The Secondary Schools

Table 1 shows the trend in attainment across the schools as measured by KS4 results. The 2009 results were taken approximately nine months into the partnership with EdisonLearning. It should be noted that there has been considerable turbulence around the future of Weston Favell School over the last twelve months that has impacted on the school's capacity to implement improvement strategies; the consequent inherent difficulties have been further borne out in the recent Ofsted inspection.

It will be noted that 2009 results bettered 2008 (and 2007) results in every school in respect of both the key measures.

TABLE 3: OUTCOMES OF KEY STAGE 4 ASSESSMENTS 2007-2009

5 A*-C inc Eng & Math equiv. passes	2007	2008	2009
Abbeyfield	24.00%	29.00%	30.00%
Kingsthorpe	27.00%	16.00%	37.00%
Thomas Becket	30.00%	35.00%	36.00%
Weston Favell	18.00%	18.00%	30.00%
Mean for group	24.75%	24.50%	33.25%
5 A*-C equiv. passes	2007	2008	2009
Abbeyfield	32.00%	40.00%	49.00%
Kingsthorpe	40.00%	39.00%	55.00%
Thomas Becket	38.00%	48.00%	54.00%
Weston Favell	28.00%	26.00%	40.00%
Mean for group	34.50%	38.25%	49.50%

Closing the Gap

Table 4 shows that in 2008, prior to partnering with EdisonLearning, the performance gap between them and the national average grew. Following partnership with EdisonLearning they have made notable progress in closing this gap, notwithstanding the further challenge ahead.

TABLE 4: AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF NORTHAMPTON PARTNER SECONDARY SCHOOLS PASSING 5 A*-C INCLUDING ENGLISH & MATHS AND 5 A*-C PASSES VERSUS THE NATIONAL TREND

5 A*-C inc Eng & Math equiv. passes	2007	2008	2009
Northampton Partners	24.75%	24.50%	33.25%
National	45.80%	48.20%	50.70%
Performance gap	-21.05%	-23.70%	-17.45%
5 A*-C equiv. passes	2007	2008	2009
Northampton Partners	34.50%	38.25%	49.50%
National	60.90%	64.80%	69.80%
Performance gap	-26.40%	-26.55%	-20.30%

Contextual Value Added

Table 5 shows the trend in the schools' contextual value added measure. Three of the schools, and the mean for the group of schools as a whole, showed falls in this measure between 2007 and 2008.

In contrast, after partnering with EdisonLearning, all the schools saw marked improvements in 2009. The descriptive categories shown in the 2008 and 2009 columns give a rough gauge as to the significance of this improvement. Aside from Weston Favell, this group of schools raised their standing relative to schools nationally to a substantial degree, suggesting they are on the road to the higher levels of effectiveness desired.

TABLE 5: SCHOOL TRENDS IN CONTEXTUAL VALUE ADDED

	2007	2008	2009
Abbeyfield	978.1	991.7 (Lower Mid Quartile)	998.5 (Middle 20%)
Kingsthorpe	997.3	973.8 (Bottom Quartile)	1000.2 (Middle 20%)
Thomas Becket	989.1	985.6 (Bottom Quartile)	991.9 (Lower Mid Quartile)
Weston Favell	968.6	957.4 (Lowest 5%)	963.2 (Lowest 5%)
Mean	983.28	977.13	988.45

Conclusions

With the support of EdisonLearning the schools have made considerable progress in terms of outcomes, systems and the quality of their implementation.

The EdisonLearning Design and pattern of delivery has enabled schools to see through sustainable changes that have improved their practice in ways that they have found both stimulating and empowering.

Recent Ofsted Inspections

From September 2008 to the time of preparing this report (February 2010) three of this group of schools have been subject to inspections. The school facing turmoil about its future, Weston Favell School, was placed in the category of 'requiring special measures', despite improvements in standards and contextual value added. Kingsthorpe College and Abbeyfield School have been judged to be satisfactory with good features.



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