
Thinking Differently for Disadvantaged Learners©

The Professional Learning Programme (PLP) involves ‘universal access’ for all school staff (and governors) to the six training modules, released half termly throughout the academic year. In addition, it requires the identification of a nominated lead professional learner (LPL) in each school. The LPL will benefit from additional support and development in their role as champion for disadvantaged learners in their school via access to a forum.

The LPL role

Our recommendation would be that the LPL is the person who oversees the outcomes of those learners in receipt of free school meals/Pupil Premium across the whole school. It should be a member of staff who has influence over training decisions in the school and is a champion of disadvantaged learners.

The LPL will be the contact point for all aspects of the PLP. This means they will be the contact point for staff in school (for example, reminding them to log in and access training modules) and contact point for Challenging Education (if purchased by school directly) or LA/consortium/Multi-Academy (if purchased by a group) regarding release announcements, Q&A sessions etc.

The LPL will also have access to a forum from the date of licence agreement up to 31st August 2021. This forum will provide an opportunity to share best practice, understand more about the training modules and gain insight into ways the training can be used back in school.

The forum

The forum will develop over the academic year as training modules are released. However, from day 1 of signing up, the LPL will be able to:

- Introduce themselves to other LPLs from across the UK and start sharing experiences.
- Reflect on challenging questions, set by the Challenging Education trainers, around provision for disadvantaged learners in their school.
- Ask questions around provision for disadvantaged learners.
- Make suggestions for content of future training modules.
- Access recommended reading based around disadvantaged learners.
- Ask for practical support (e.g. accessing the materials).

Following release of each training module, the LPL will be able to:

- Read suggestions made by the trainers about how to use the various sessions back in school (e.g. integration into whole school training sessions).
- Comment on the training, ask questions to clarify what has been said.
- Submit questions for the recorded question and answer session¹.
- Complete an evaluation of the quality of the latest module release and suggest improvements.

¹ Some LPLs will be invited to ‘attend’ the recording of the virtual Q&A session. This will be entirely voluntary and on an invitation-only basis.