Demonstrator schools/colleges

Concept Design

3rd June 2019

Purpose of the paper

- To prompt debate regarding the development of the demonstrator schools and colleges programme
- To influence policy development and next steps in the delivery of this work.

Department
for Education

Our challenge is to create a programme of demonstrator schools and colleges to help drive positive use of education technology…

The EdTech Strategy committed to:

*"Launching a network of 'demonstrator' schools and colleges to **showcase best practice** and offer **peer-led hands on support** for those schools and colleges that need it. The demonstrator schools will **leverage existing expertise** in the sector and **help to provide peer-to-peer support and training**. We will be designing this network with the support of the EdTech Leadership Group, drawing in industry expertise and support and learning from schools and college leaders about what they would find useful."*
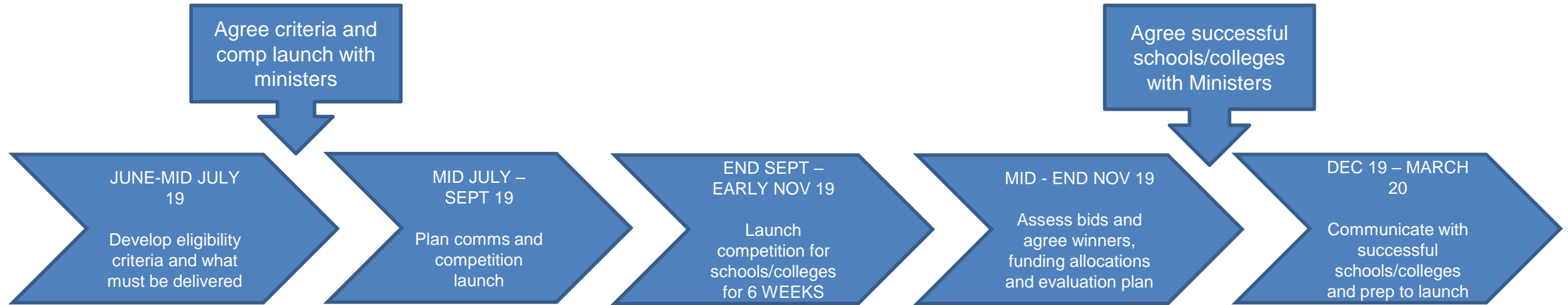
Department for Education

There are some policy design aspects which have already been confirmed…

- Must cover both schools and colleges

- Ensure a spread of establishments across England (ideally in each of the 8 RSC regions)

- DfE funding of £3.5 million to support the programme over the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. Must drive best value and achieve maximum outcome.

- Act as a pilot and evaluate impact (to inform future spending plans)

- Must build on schools and colleges who are already using tech well

- Must promote peer-to-peer learning about the positive use of tech

- Approach for selecting schools and colleges to participate must be open, transparent and based on clear criteria
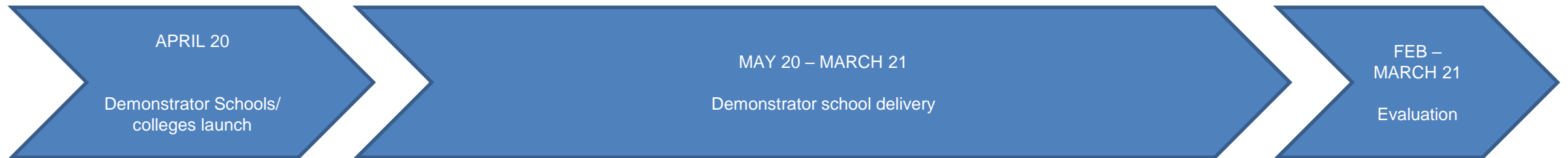
We should aim to set up demonstrator schools as soon as possible, to maximise potential impact…
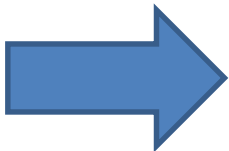
Preparation for launch:

Agree criteria and comp launch with ministers

Agree successful schools/colleges with Ministers

JUNE-MID JULY 19

Develop eligibility criteria and what must be delivered

MID JULY – SEPT 19

Plan comms and competition launch

END SEPT – EARLY NOV 19

Launch competition for schools/colleges for 6 WEEKS

MID - END NOV 19

Assess bids and agree winners, funding allocations and evaluation plan

DEC 19 – MARCH 20

Communicate with successful schools/colleges and prep to launch

Delivery and evaluation:

APRIL 20

Demonstrator Schools/ colleges launch

MAY 20 – MARCH 21

Demonstrator school delivery

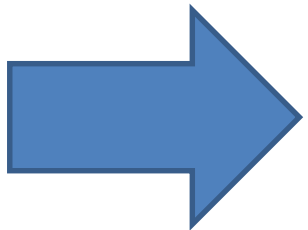**FEB – MARCH 21**

Evaluation

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We need to agree criteria for which institutions should be eligible to apply to be a demonstrator school/schools…

- Ofsted criteria - good or outstanding?
- Pass due diligence checks (Heads and MAT where applicable)
- Existing role/outreach/influence with other schools/MATs/colleges
- Be visionary and inspiring
- Can evidence that:
  - Tech is embedded in whole school approaches (rather than an add-on)
  - Positive use of technology is driven and supported by the head and SLT
  - Tech has made a positive impact on one or more of the following:
    - Teaching and learning and pupil outcomes
    - Teacher workload and working life
    - School spend and efficiencies
    - To improve accessibility and inclusion

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What can we learn from the BECTA ICT mark approach?

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We also need to agree our expectations for what Demonstrator schools will do…

- Deliver positive outreach to [X number of?] schools/colleagues
- Promote the positive use of EdTech to other schools and colleges
- Provide hands-on-support to other/colleges to assist them on their technology journey
- Actively share ideas and resources for the use of technology
- Target heads and leadership teams (not just teachers)
- Provide CPD for leaders and teachers in other establishments.
- [Not including technical support]?

What sort of model should we aim for? Large numbers with smaller funding vs small numbers, greater funding? Thought leaders vs intensive support?

What can we learn from other types of 'flagship tech programmes' in developing our criteria?

What is a reasonable expectation of schools and colleges?

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We propose that we seek to ensure that there is:

- a spread across the country and ideally demonstrator school(s) across all RSC regions
- a mix of primary schools, secondary schools and colleges
- special schools and colleges included.
- a range of schools with differing socio-economic intakes

And we should also endeavor to ensure a mix of:

- academies and LA maintained schools
- stand-alone academies and those in MATs
- faith schools and non-faith schools
- rural and urban schools/colleges
- small and large schools
- establishments which are supported by different commercial tools

Should there be a link with other types of 'hubs/flagships' such as Research Schools, Teaching Schools, Computing Hubs, Maths Hubs, English Hubs?

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There are a range of technology flagship programmes that we would be keen to build on and work with…

- Microsoft Showcase schools and colleges and global flagship establishments
- Apple Regional Training Centers
- Google schools
- The EdTech 50 network
- Other examples of good practice (e.g. Grimsby College, Shirelands, The Cornerstone Academy Trust, School 21, etc)

How should the demonstrator programme link with the programmes above?

Is there potential to collaborate with industry to co-fund projects to deliver greater impact?

How do we leverage support from other companies not represented here?

Department for Education

We welcome your views on how the programme should develop…

- What are your views on the criteria for which schools/colleges are eligible? What can we learn from other industry led flagship programmes?

- What sort of model should we aim for? Large numbers with smaller funding vs small numbers, greater funding? Thought leaders vs intensive support?

- What is reasonable to expect of our demonstrator schools/colleges – What could form a common criteria?

- How do we ensure that we minimize burdens for schools, yet maximize opportunities for collaboration and CPD?

- What will schools/colleges expect/need in return for becoming a demonstrator? What magnitude of funding will be attractive?

- Is there potential to collaborate with industry to co-fund projects to deliver greater impact? How should we leverage support from other companies not represented here?

- Should there be a link with other types of 'hubs/flagships' such as Research Schools, Teaching Schools, Computing Hubs, Maths Hubs or English Hubs?

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We'd welcome any further views and discussion…

Please contact the EdTech Team at:

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Department for Education