



Alta Systems (NI) Ltd.

adaptive learning teaching and assessment

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PRESS RELEASE

Alta Maths for Schools

Improving Maths Abilities for ages 5 to 14

English schools can now use Alta Maths for Schools to improve their pupils' performance in maths. The Alta System has been deployed by the Northern Ireland Department of Education for all the schools in the province to raise their standards in mathematics. Now mapped to the National Curriculum this Internet based diagnostic system is bristling with functionality to assist pupils and support teachers. Teachers using the system in Northern Ireland overwhelmingly confirm that it develops the mathematical skills of their pupils and has a significant impact on their ability.

Fits Schools Perfectly

The Alta system is tailored to the national mathematics curriculum so fits perfectly with school teaching plans. In an independent evaluation of the system Charlie Sproule, Manager of Assessment at CCEA commented, "We surveyed over 150 teachers who are using the system. The overwhelming majority 98% confirmed that this system developed mathematical skills and 80% said it had a significant impact on their pupils' ability. Combined with other evaluations we have carried out we have no doubts that this system will help our pupils to learn and improve their mathematical skills."

The Alta information system provides powerful diagnostic feedback to teachers and pupils. It marks pupils work immediately and gives pupils colour coded diagnostic profiles of their results. This informative approach allows teachers to help pupils build on their strengths and work on their weaknesses. Tilda Armstrong a primary school teacher comments, "The fact that it was marked instantly really encouraged pupils to go through the questions. After the feedback they were keen to correct their mistakes and improve their performance, which is fantastic."

Adapts to Each Pupil Individually

Bristling with innovative features the system encourages pupils to progress at their own pace and take responsibility for their own learning. The system adjusts automatically to each pupil by selecting each question based on that pupil's answers to previous questions. Pupils can replay exactly what they did, refer to model answers and, with their teachers' help, build on their strengths and work on their weaknesses. Teachers report that the colour coded diagnostic profile is extremely useful in conversations with parents. From the profile parents, like teachers, can see instantly where their children are having problems as well as the remedial actions that have

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been taken. The information builds up and moves with the pupil from class to class, teacher to teacher, school to school.

The screenshot shows the Alta system interface for a student named Alice Anderson. The main area displays a table of test results for Mathematics - Number. The table includes columns for Date, Level, Type, Result, and a grid of colored bands representing performance across different topics (a-m). Callouts provide additional context: 'Links to Curriculum Criteria' points to the student's name; 'Level Pupil is working at' points to the Level column; 'Diagnosis of strengths and weaknesses read horizontally and vertically' points to the colored bands; and 'Complete record and replay of each session' points to a detail icon. A 'Colour Code Key' legend on the right defines the colors: Well Done (dark blue), Good (light blue), Uncertain (yellow), At Risk (orange), and Alert (red). A legend at the bottom identifies A as Advanced Mode, L as Confirmed Level Mode, and P as Practice Mode. The interface also shows navigation options like 'Management', 'Resources', and 'System' at the top, and a 'Report' section on the left.

Jimmy Stewart, Director C2k, Department of Education, says, “The Alta system is an excellent online support tool for pupils, teachers, parents and the education services. It delivers educationally reliable results, helps pupils improve their maths, teachers find it manageable to use, parents find it informative and over time it will help improve our standards in mathematics. This is a really effective way to use computers in the classroom, integrate them with teaching and support teachers.”

Professor Fred McBride Managing Director of Alta explains, “It is well known in education circles that a formative, continuous assessment approach is a much more effective way to improve learning than end of term or end of year exams. We have developed and refined the innovative ideas behind Alta over many years of research and produced the first practical solution for classroom based assessment. Paper based attempts have failed because of the workload they required from teachers – Alta removes this burden yet produces very rich diagnostics.”

“While the system was designed for schools we have strong interest from further education colleges and from parents interested in home use” added Professor McBride.

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About Alta Systems (NI) Ltd

Alta delivers Adaptive Learning Teaching & Assessment solutions. Alta improves learning outcomes by informing self-assessment and teaching. Diagnostic pupil profiles are built up over time and can be a



combination of automated assessments and moderated teacher assessments. Alta's informative assessment products are based on a proven methodology that delivers improved pupil performance which has been validated and endorsed by educationalists and teachers.

An Alta solution is always tailored to a curriculum. Alta's maths products are deployed in classrooms in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Isle of Man where they are customised for each of these regions. Promoting self-assessment and formative assessment, the Alta systems are unique in providing diagnostic feedback of strengths and weaknesses for each learner. The combination of multi-instance questions, full replay and model answers provides stimulating and engaging experiences for learners that deliver personal performance improvements.

Alta has developed a complete rigorous end-to-end methodology for designing, writing and delivering and validating formative assessment systems. This methodology provides educationally reliable online assessment with diagnostic feedback and analysis to pupils, teachers and parents. The approach is not restricted to mathematics, is independent of subject matter and does not impose, but adapts to, classroom practices and teaching policies.

For further information about Alta Systems and the Alta methodology please contact Dr Barry Hagan, Sales and Marketing Director. Tel: 028 9066 3122. M: 077 147 00066. e-mail barry.hagan@alta-systems.co.uk