

## Alta Maths for Schools

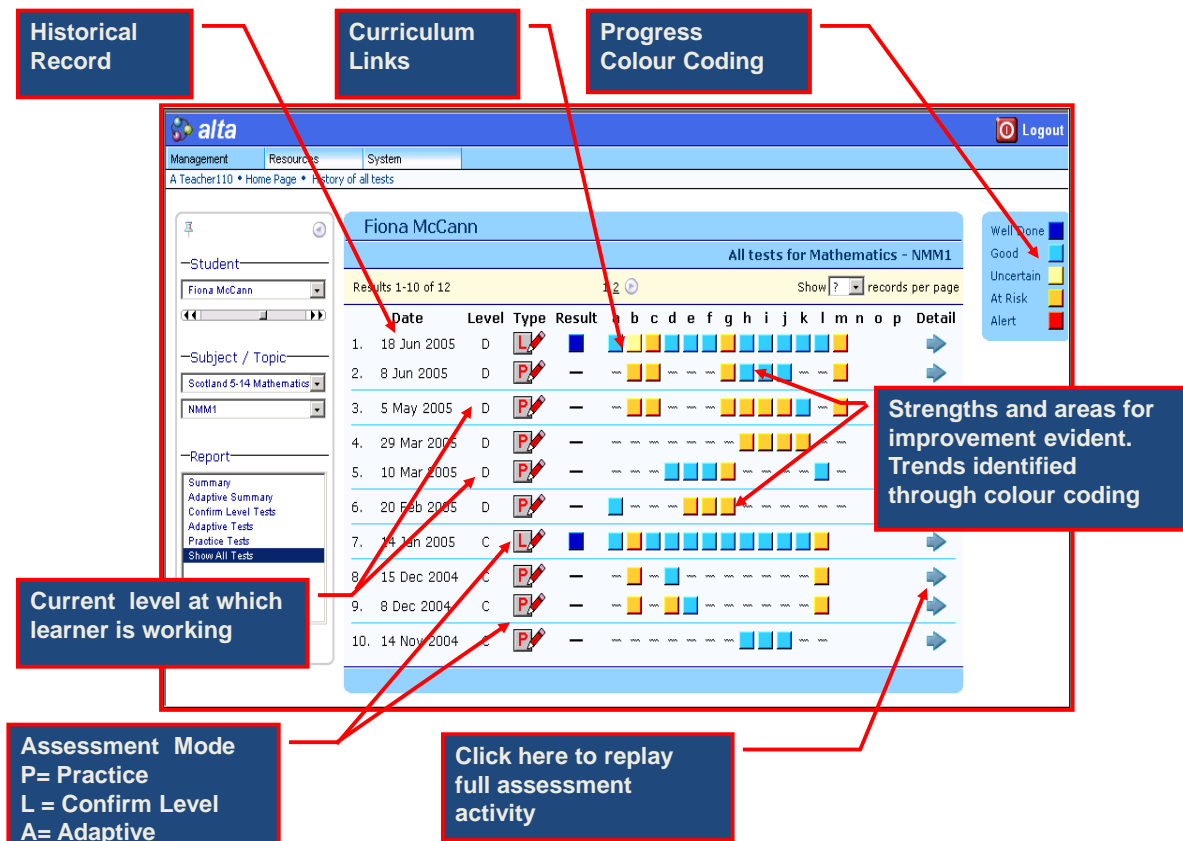
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Alta Maths for Schools is an automated, online assessment and recording system designed to assess mathematics as set out in the 5-14 Scottish Mathematics Guidelines. When the new levels in Mathematics are implemented, the system will be remapped to the CfE guidelines. It already supports Assessment is for Learning by providing pupils and teachers with formative and diagnostic information enabling dependable and comparable summative assessments and meaningful discussion of progress and achievement.

Its key features are:

- detailed mapping to the 5-14 guidelines;
- use of a wide range of adaptive question types which learners find enjoyable and challenging;
- the linking of mathematics to the real world;
- automated marking and immediate feedback;
- provision of reliable and valid outcomes;
- instant replay and model answers;
- learner/class profiles of coverage, progress and achievement for teachers and learners (See example below).

### Alta Learner Profile



The screenshot shows the Alta Learner Profile for Fiona McCann. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left, a student profile section, and a table of test results. Annotations highlight key features:

- Historical Record:** Points to the 'History of all tests' link in the navigation menu.
- Curriculum Links:** Points to the 'Scotland 5-14 Mathematics' dropdown menu.
- Progress Colour Coding:** Points to the 'Well Done', 'Good', 'Uncertain', 'At Risk', and 'Alert' status indicators.
- Current level at which learner is working:** Points to the 'Level' column in the test results table.
- Assessment Mode:** Points to the 'Level Type' column, with a legend: P= Practice, L= Confirm Level, A= Adaptive.
- Click here to replay full assessment activity:** Points to the 'Detail' link in the test results table.
- Strengths and areas for improvement evident. Trends identified through colour coding:** Points to the 'Result' column, which uses colored bars to represent performance across different topics (a-o).

Date	Level	Type	Result	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	Detail
1. 18 Jun 2005	D	L	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done
2. 8 Jun 2005	D	P	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
3. 5 May 2005	D	P	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
4. 29 Mar 2005	D	P	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk
5. 10 Mar 2005	D	P	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
6. 20 Feb 2005	D	P	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done	Well Done
7. 14 Jan 2005	C	L	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
8. 15 Dec 2004	C	P	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
9. 8 Dec 2004	C	P	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk
10. 14 Nov 2004	C	P	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert

Following a very positive evaluation by LTS, three more local authorities (Glasgow, Dundee and West Lothian) have evaluated Alta Maths for Schools in the past school year and have endorsed the LTS findings. One P7 teacher in Glasgow commented that she liked:

*“...the fact that the **children can see very readily where the strengths and weaknesses are and do something about it.**”*

Another stated it was:

*“A very useful learning and teaching /assessment tool (if used to its full potential) which **allows the pupil to be in charge of his or her own learning in a non-threatening and enjoyable way.**”*

In Dundee the learners said:

*“I like using Alta because it is very simple to use and it shows what you are good at and what you are not good at, so you know what to do again.”*

*“I like Alta because every time I got a question wrong it was able to correct me and tell me the right answer.”*

*“...it improved my maths knowledge.”*

*“There was nothing that I didn't like about using Alta. It was very fun.”*

*“I liked everything about Alta because it was better than doing it in maths text books”*

An ICT Tutor commented:

*“I believe that one of the main strengths for Alta maths is at the P7/S1 transition. I think it will come in to its own when 5-14 assessments are no more. **Alta would allow for a standardised assessment for pupils entering secondary education.***

*I also feel that strengths lie in the **instant feedback to pupils**, informing them of their own progress and encouraging them to become more independent learners.”*

**In 2007 Western Isles purchased the system for use in all its primary and secondary schools.**

## **Benefits for Education Authorities**

### **Alta Maths for Schools is fit for purpose**

- Supports *Assessment is for Learning*.
- Is a manageable and dependable alternative to National Assessments.
- Provides Education Authorities and primary and secondary schools with dependable and comparable assessment information and data.
- Eases transition between primary and secondary and provides sound information for S1 teachers.
- Promotes the use of ICT in the classroom.
- Used effectively will improve standards.

## **Benefits for Teachers and Schools**

- System is intuitive, easily learnt and manageable.
- Will reduce the burden of assessment and recording.
- Will support ongoing teaching, assessment and learning in the classroom.
- Will provide accessible diagnostic and formative assessment information leading to dependable summative assessments.
- Is engaging, motivating and enjoyable for the children.
- Provides a painless and dependable alternative to National Assessments.
- Comparable outcomes will facilitate transition into post primary.
- Used effectively will improve teaching and learning and raise standards.

## **Summary**

Alta Systems has a world class assessment system for Mathematics customised for the current Scottish 5-14 Mathematics Guidelines. The system has been updated to include even more relevant content and will be remapped to meet the CfE requirements when implemented. It already meets all the requirements of *Assessment is for Learning* and, as can be seen from the above, has real benefits for all users.

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