



Tools that unite a plethora of data for improved decision making

KEY POINTS



- Uniting data sources into a data warehouse can support MAT leaders to spot patterns and adjust improvement strategies
- A data warehouse takes multiple data sources into a central place and with dashboards can summarise key information and bring benefits:
 1. transparency
 2. responsiveness
 3. collaborative
 4. time-saving
 5. increase effectiveness
- A data warehouse, such as Questa, can put data and its insights at the fingertips of MAT leaders, allowing them to improve the learning outcomes of students.

MATs and academies save and crunch enormous amounts of data. Used effectively, it can provide vital clues about how to improve educational performance, business performance, staff performance and ultimately learning outcomes of students.

However, in many MATs, data is locked away in several different repositories. To be useful, it needs to be able to be compared and processed into accurate information:

- To make more informed decisions for increased achievement of learning outcomes
- To predict future outcomes, e.g. academic attainment
- To improve the educational experience

As leaders and managers in UK Education, you know that if your organisation's data could be pulled together more intelligently, you and your teams could use it to help make even better management decisions and deliver an even better educational experience for students to improve their academic achievements.

Improving learning outcomes by uniting your data sources

Having the right tool that draws from multiple data sources to provide, a single view seamlessly layered from learner, to teacher, to group, to school, to Trust level is key.

A data warehouse can efficiently unite all your data sources together into a centralised location. Combining that with using dashboards, makes it possible to convert your data into consistent formats. This provides, data backed, guidance to MAT leaders to improve learning outcomes of key student groups e.g. pupil premium and individual students by adjusting overarching strategies as well as determining specific interventions.

What is a data warehouse?

"A data warehouse centralises and consolidates large amounts of data from multiple sources. Its analytical capabilities allow organisations to derive valuable business insights from their data to improve decision-making. Because of these capabilities, a data warehouse can be considered an organisation's "single source of truth." Oracle

Put simply, a data warehouse takes multiple data sources and puts it into a central place. Questa is such a data warehouse that has a 'front end' with dashboards comprising of filters and

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drill-through capabilities mixed with powerful reports that can be used by all levels within the Trust to transform individual learning, classrooms, school, and overarching Trust performance. It's unique in that it has a top-line strategic dashboard, Q-View, that has been designed specifically for use by the Trust leaders. It summarises the key information that a Trust leader is likely to need to make impactful decisions for the benefit of improved student learning outcomes.

Why use a data warehouse

Bringing data into one central repository can afford leaders key benefits that ultimately help leaders make informed decisions that lead to improved student learning outcomes.

- **Transparency**

It creates transparency around how the Trust and its schools are performing and opens dialogue and connects key stakeholders involved in managing the many different aspects of education across the Trust.

- **Responsiveness**

Having data and its insights available at the touch of a button, can significantly increase teacher responsiveness to student interventions, as well as Trust leaders' responsiveness to changes in Trust performance – leading to improved outcomes for all.

- **Collaborative**

Data that is trusted and readily available can foster dialogue between MAT leaders and their schools to provide mutual support to solve complex problems. Questa provides easy, timely access to the data that staff need and creates a common language which facilitates a more collaborative approach between school and Trust leaders. Read our [case study with Priory School](#) where every-day reporting through Questa has shaped future strategic improvement plans.

- **Time saving**

Data in a central data warehouse, such as Questa, can provide an easy and quick way to access the information. Reports for Trust leaders, such as Q-View, can be updated automatically, saving time on compiling any regular reports.



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- Increases effectiveness

Trust leaders want to ensure that the Trust's resources are being used well. The Trust level dashboard, Q-View, gives leaders the oversight and clear visibility of what the data is telling them. This allows them to make timely, data backed decisions, which ensures that resources are deployed appropriately across the Trust. This increases effectiveness of the delivery of school and Trust improvement plans.

A data warehouse in practice

As ICT specialists in Education, we have seen many MATs and schools struggle with their Data Management, their ability to make data-driven decisions and how it can have a detrimental impact on their performance. As a result, we developed [Questa](#), which is an Educational Intelligence solution for MATs and Schools.

Questa draws from multiple data sources into the data warehouse as well as providing a single view from individual student through to Trust level. It has two core modules of Attendance and Behaviour and four add on modules, Assessment, Achievement, Finance and HR.

Furthermore, the easy-to-understand dashboards, which are at Trust, school and student level, enable Trusts and schools to monitor progress against Key Performance Indicators. We call this Trust level dashboard the Q-View. Here MAT leaders will be able to answer the key questions they have and have meaningful conversations with staff.

Find out how other Trusts and schools have already benefited from using Questa as their data warehouse by reading our [case studies](#).

Conclusion

Trust leaders, desire a way of having key pieces of information shared regularly that allows them to have oversight of the Trust yet, the ability to ask probing questions of their schools where they see anomalies. All with the desire for strategic Trust and student learning improvement. With so much data available in different places and formats, it is often difficult to have a clear picture of what the data could be saying. A data warehouse is a key tool that brings all a MAT's data into a centralised location.

Trust level specific dashboards, such as Questa's Q-view, are key to leaders having this required information at their fingertips and not being pulled down into the minutiae of information. These dashboards make it easy to interpret the data to make data-informed decisions for the ultimate aim of improving students achievements. They provide insights into what you might feel is your 'gut instinct' but can't actually prove. Furthermore, you may even discover things that you did not already know.

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to hear more about Questa, our data analytics tool developed specially for MATs and academies, or to book a demo:

Visit www.novatia.com/home-questa call **01962 832 632** or email info@novatia.com