



# **School Improvement Plan 2023-2025**

## **Seamount College**

**Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan**

**Working Document Updated 2/2/2025, 27/1/2024, 29/5/2025**

### **1. Introduction**

This document records the findings of this self-evaluation and our current improvement plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

The outcomes of our last improvement plan from 2020-2022 are in the Appendix (p.

7). The year 2022-2023 was used as a review year following the Covid pandemic.

#### **1.1 The focus of this evaluation**

We undertook self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the period *Sept. 2023 to Feb. 2024*. We evaluated the following aspect(s) of teaching and learning:

- Challenges of moving from primary to secondary schools
- Challenges of moving from junior to senior cycle

### **2. Findings of this evaluation**

#### **2.1 This is effective / very effective practice in our school**

- Most students feel that they are able to study. (75% say they can study effectively in some subjects; 12% believe that they study effectively in all subjects. )
- Over half of parents take an active role in their son/daughters' study
- 98% of parents review their son/daughters' reports with them.

## 2.2. This is how we know:

- Two focus groups were established: one for junior cycle students and one for senior cycle students.
- Following consultation with the two focus groups our theme “linking learning” was established.
- Teachers were then consulted at a whole staff meeting.
- Following this all students and parents were surveyed on their views.
- This data was used by the SSE team to formulate targets and actions.

## 2.3 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our practice further

How to best support students in their study, revision and management of course work.

## 3. Our Improvement Plan

On the next page we have recorded:

- The **targets** for improvement we have set
- The **actions** we will implement to achieve these
- **Who is responsible** for implementing, monitoring and reviewing our improvement plan
- How we will measure **progress** and check **outcomes** (criteria for success)

As we implement our improvement plan we will record:

- The **progress** made, and **adjustments** made, and **when**
- **Achievement of targets** (original and modified), and **when**

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN***Seamount College***Sep 2023 to May 2025**

**Focus:** How to best support students in their study, revision and management of course work.

**ACTION PLAN COORDINATOR:****Maeve Tierney****Target 1**

Increase the number of students who know how to study effectively in all subjects from 12% to >20%.

Actions to Achieve Target	Who?	When?
1. Study skills presentation specific to all subjects to be shared with all students and presented schoolwide.	LF	When study plan is given out Winter and summer
2. Presentation shared via QR code with students.	SOC	When study plan is given out Winter and summer
3. Study skill workshops for second and fifth year.	MT	Oct Bi-annually
4. One page revision sheet methodology for all subjects where appropriate to be produced by students but led by teacher.	All teachers	End of topics when appropriate
5. Sixth year study advice session for fifth year students.	LF	October each year

**Survey December 2024 Result:** The figure increased to 15%.

**Survey May 2025 Result:** The figure reduced to 12%.

**Target 2**

Increase student use of the structured study plans to prepare for exams from 52% to >70%.

Actions to Achieve Target	Who?	When?
1. Create a template of a shortened time frame for a study plan. (3 and a half weeks)	AK/LF	Distribute 3/4 weeks before exams

		(29th of April '24)
2. "Drop everything and study" classes - once a week for 4 weeks using the revision plan. 1st, 2nd and 5th years. Study plan to be projected on the board. Notice will be given to students to ensure they have appropriate materials.	All teachers MT	From 4 weeks before exams.
<b>December 2024 Result: 67% of respondents used the structured study plan</b> <b>May 2025 Result: 64% of respondents used the structured study plan</b> <b>19.5% used their own study plan</b>		
<b>Target 3</b> Increase the number of all students using the study plan for 3 or more weeks from 52% to >75%.		
Actions to Achieve Target	Who?	When?
1. Master plan to be edited by all subject teachers to ensure it reflects work undertaken and the upcoming tests. 2. Where necessary the master plan should be individualised for every class.	All teachers	Month before house exams
3. "Drop everything and study" classes once a week for use with the study plan in the lead up to the exams in the current subject. 1st, 2nd and 5th years. Study plan to be projected on the board. Notice will be given to students to ensure they have appropriate materials.	All teachers MT	Scheduled times
<b>December 2024 Result:</b> Can only be measured at summer tests - as there was only a 2.5 week lead up to winter tests. <b>May 2025 Result:</b> 35% used the structured study plan for 3 or more weeks.		
<b>Target 4</b> Decrease the number of students who report finding completing coursework/projects while keeping up to date with other subjects very difficult/ difficult from 47% to <35%.		
Actions to Achieve Target	Who?	When?

1. Schedule of CBAs given at the start of the year and displayed in classrooms.	Wellbeing teachers	September
2. Class time given for the completion of CBAs.	All teachers	At appropriate time
3. When students are completing CBAs give no other homework in that subject. (for 2-3 week long CBAs)	All teachers	At appropriate time
<b>December 2024 Result:</b> Reduced to 39%. <b>May 2025 Result:</b> Reduced to 34%.		
<b>Target 5</b> Increase the number of parents who look at the revision plans with their son/daughter from 50% to >60%.		
Actions to Achieve Target	Who?	When?
1. Email study plan to all parents as well as students.	AK/LF Admin	October/ April
2. Follow up with a text message notification.	Admin	October/ April
<b>December 2024 Result:</b> In the parent/ guardian survey 94% of respondents were aware that their son/daughter received a structured study plan from school. 71% looked at the revision plans with their son/daughter. <b>May 2025 Result:</b> In the parent/ guardian survey 96.5% of respondents were aware that their son/daughter received a structured study plan from school. 65% of parents/guardians looked at it with their son/daughter.		

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MONITORING STRATEGIES/APPROACHES	EVALUATION / CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS (Are we making progress? / How do we know?)
Subject teachers to check in with classes about revision timetables.	<p>The SSE team asked their classes in May 2024 about how useful revision timetables are - they received only positive feedback.</p> <p>This was supported by survey results in December and May 2025.</p>

<p>Teacher survey May 2024. Wider discussion of results at staff meeting 31 May 2024.</p>	<p>Evaluate results of teacher survey May 2024: Good feedback on DEAS and revision timetables. Staff are positive about One Page Revision methodology - but they need more time and support to adopt it. 53% of survey respondents reported adopting the strategy with some of their classes. 25% have not used it yet.</p>
<p>Observation of student use of study plans during <i>DEAS</i> classes.</p>	<p>Evaluate results of teacher survey May 2024: Positive response - 35% of teacher respondents reported very good use of DEAS classes and 47% reported good use. 75% of teacher respondents believe that revision timetables are very useful for students.</p>
<p>Focus groups to be held in September to evaluate how last years' targets went and to feed into next years' targets.</p>	<p><b>Evaluation of data from focus groups.</b> ● Most students in both focus groups did not remember looking at the study skills presentation that was shared with them via email. Students suggested that it would be better if individual subject teachers shared study tips for their subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students reported an improvement in the usefulness of structured study plans - Both groups felt 4.5 weeks would be optimal at summer.</li> <li>● Students all agreed that the DEAS classes are valuable but they also would prefer if</li> </ul>

	<p>DEAS classes happened during non exam subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students feel the One Page Revision methodology is a good idea. They say only a few teachers use it. Junior students would prefer if the teachers gave them the completed pages or at least headings and structure for them. Senior students acknowledged that the learning happens in creating the pages themselves but they would like more scaffolding and maybe a completed one to be given after they have finished their own in case they are missing important data. They also pointed out that they lend themselves more to some topics than others.</li> <li>• Less stress was reported by these focus groups regarding the CBAs. They still feel there are too many and that they overlap, but they acknowledge that they are as spread out as possible.</li> </ul>
<p>Survey second and fifth years following Study Skills Seminar.</p>	<p><b>Results and Analysis:</b></p> <p>Study skills seminars weren't held until February as that was the earliest availability. 58% of the 121 respondents agreed/strongly agreed that they know more about studying than they did before the seminar. 59% agreed/strongly agreed that they intended on using study skills strategies that they learned during the seminars. 61% agreed/strongly agreed that they would recommend the seminars to students their age. Informal student feedback regarding the surveys was very positive - the only negative feedback was that students would have preferred if they were held earlier in the year.</p>

Survey students and parents December 2024 and May 2025.	Evaluate survey results. (See below).

### NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS THROUGHOUT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

- Study timetable shortened from a 6 week to a 3.5 week timeframe following student focus groups and surveys in May 2024.
- Second and Fifth year workshops scheduled for January 2025 - good time for a “fresh approach” 24 Study Skills email will be shown at the start of the first DEAS class.
- Following the focus group in September 2024 structured study plan to be increased from 3.5 weeks to 4.5 weeks in summer, however only a 2.5 week plan can be given for the winter tests as that is the gap between the Mid Term and the beginning of the tests.
- A similar situation arose for the summer structured study plan as Easter was late and the plan could only be 3.5 weeks in duration. However, the plan was given before the Easter Holidays to facilitate students who wished to begin studying early.

TARGETS	ACHIEVED by December 2024		Achieved by June 2025	
<b>Target 1</b> Increase the number of students who know how to study effectively in all subjects from 12% to >20%.	<b>No</b>	The figure increased to 15%. Those saying that they can study effectively in some subjects remained at 75%, with 10% saying they don't know how to study effectively.	<b>No</b>	The figure decreased back to 12%. 76% say they can study effectively in some subjects and 12% say they don't know how to study effectively.
<b>Analysis:</b> The figure rising to 15% in December 2024 but falling back to 12% in May 2025 could be reflective of the whole school being surveyed in December, but only first, second and fifth year students being surveyed in May. It may also reflect the timing of the surveys; as students would have already known a lot of their results for the December survey bolstering their confidence, however the May survey had to be conducted during the exam timeframe.				
<b>Target 2</b> Increase student use of the structured study plans to prepare for exams from 52% to >70%.	<b>No</b>	The number increased to 68% .	<b>Yes</b>	64% of respondents used the structured study plan



				19.5% used their own study plan
<b>Analysis:</b> 68% of students reported that they were using the structured study plans in December 2024. When members of the SSE team asked students why they weren't all using them, some students reported that they prefer to make their own plans. The SSE Team decided to modify the summer survey to see how many students were using their own plans instead. 83% of students used study plans according to the May 2025 survey. This is a very positive result.				
<b>Target 3</b> Increase the number of all students using the study plan for 3 or more weeks from 52% to >75%.	<b>Yes</b> / <b>No</b>	Cannot be assessed until summer	<b>No</b>	35% used the structured study plan for 3 or more weeks.
<b>Analysis:</b> This target was set following the first focus group in which students expressed a wish that the structured study plans would be better if they were longer. However, during the second focus group students complained that the previous study plan of 6 weeks was too long. The way the school calendar fell for the November 2024 tests and the May 2025 tests impacted the lead time until the exams. There was only 2.5 weeks between the Halloween Mid Term Break and the winter tests. Similarly there was only 3.5 weeks between the Easter break and the summer tests. This means this target could not be measured for the winter tests and that to achieve the target at summer three-quarters of students would have had to start using the plan immediately. In retrospect due to calendar fluctuations this target was flawed.				
<b>Target 4</b> Decrease the number of students who report finding completing coursework/projects while keeping up to date with other subjects very difficult/ difficult from 47% to <35%.	<b>No</b>	Reduced to 39%.	<b>Yes</b>	Reduced to 34%.
<b>Analysis:</b> This result is very positive and reflects the work of teachers in scheduling CBAs and in avoiding giving homework during CBA time.				
<b>Target 5</b> Increase the number of parents who look at the revision plans with their son/daughter from 50% to >60%.	<b>Yes</b>	Increased to 71%	<b>Yes</b>	Went down to 65%.
<b>Analysis:</b> The initial survey of parents that informed the targets shone a light on the need to communicate the use of the structured study plans to parents. The emails and text messages communicating this appear to have helped as 96% parents/guardians reported their knowledge of the study plan in May 2025. The fact that 71% of parents/ guardians reported looking at the study plan with parents in December 2024 but only 65% report the same in May 2025 is probably reflective of the fact that third and sixth year students were not asked about in summer as the structured study plans are for in-house exams only.				

## Appendix

### 1.1 Outcomes of our last improvement plan from 2020 to 2022

**Managing Myself (2nd, 5th & 6th Years) and Communication (3rd Years & TYs) were the two strands focused on in 2021-2022.**

**The following results were achieved, with the targets yet to be achieved highlighted:**

#### **Targets for the Academic Year 2020/2021 Positive Mental Health (6<sup>th</sup> Years)**

<b>Target</b>	<b>2019/20 20 Target</b>	<b>2019/20 20 Result</b>	<b>2020/20 21 Target</b>	<b>2020/20 21 Result</b>
I am aware of the various supports available to me within our school community if I am not feeling my best for whatever reason	75 – 80%	78.9%	80-85%	90.6%
I am aware of the various supports available to me outside our school community if I am not feeling my best for whatever reason	65 – 70%	93%	>90%	90.6%
I am comfortable going to a staff member if I have a problem	80 – 85%	70.2%	80-85%	69.8%

I am encouraged and have the opportunity to take part in school life 70 – 75% 94.7% >90% 92.5%

#### **2 Managing Myself (5<sup>th</sup> Years)**

<b>Target</b>	<b>2019/20 20 Target</b>	<b>2019/20 20 Result</b>	<b>2020/20 21 Target</b>	<b>2020/20 21 Result</b>
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Increase the number of students who feel attendance is well <u>monitored in the school.</u> Decrease the number of students who come to class without necessary materials once per day	61 – 80%	97.7%	>90%	94.9%
	20 – 25%	9.1%	<10%	2.6%
Increase the number of students who rate their journal as excellent or very good.	55 – 70%	36.3%	50-55%	53.3%
Increase the number of students who agree that they can effectively revise material covered in class.	40 – 60%	70.5%	>70%	54.5%

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### 3 Managing Myself (TYs)

Target	2019/20 20 Target	2019/20 20 Result	2020/20 21 Target	2020/2 02 1 Result
Increase the number of students who feel attendance is well monitored in the school.	77 – 80%	96.6%	>90%	71.1%
Decrease the number of students who come to class without necessary materials once per day	5 – 15%	13.8%	<15%	17.1%
Increase the number of students who rate their use of the journal as excellent or very good.	71 – 80%	77.6%	>75%	35.5%
Increase the number of students who agree that they can effectively revise material covered in class.	65 – 75%	75.9%	>75%	67.1%

### 4 Communication (3<sup>rd</sup> Years)

Target	2019/20 20	2019/20 20 Result	2020/20 21	2020/2 02 1
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	Target	Result	Target	Result
Increase the number of students who feel very comfortable reading aloud in class	>20%	10.8%	>20%	36%
Increase the number of students that enjoy giving oral presentations	>60%	32.4%	>40%	29.1%
Increase the number of students that volunteer daily to give their opinions aloud in class	>55%	44.6%	>50%	38.4%
Increase the number of students who have opportunities to work with others on a regular basis	>80%	77%	>50%	54.7%

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#### 5 Communication (2<sup>nd</sup> Years)

Target	2019/20 20 Target	2019/20 20 Result	2020/20 21 Target	2020/2 02 1 Result
Increase the number of students who feel very comfortable reading aloud in class	>20%	18.3%	>20%	32.6%
Increase the number of students that enjoy giving oral presentations	>60%	56.1%	>55%	26.3%
Increase the number of students that volunteer daily to give their opinions aloud in class	>55%	50%	>50%	33.7%
Increase the number of students who have opportunities to work with others on a regular basis	>80%	75.6%	>40%	48.4%

#### 6 Managing Myself (1<sup>st</sup> Years)

Target	2020/2021 Target	2020/2 02 1
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		<b>Result</b>
Increase the number of students who feel attendance is well monitored in the school	>90%	84.4%
Decrease the number of students who come to class without necessary materials once per day	<15%	2.8%
Increase the number of students who rate their use of the journal as excellent or very good.	>75%	75.2%
Increase the number of students who agree that they can effectively revise material covered in class	>70%	65.1%

Building on the previous strands one common area of continued need is to “Increase the number of students who agree that they can effectively revise material covered in class”.

According to this data, other areas that continue to need improvement are

- increasing the number of students who feel attendance is well monitored in the school.
- increasing the number of students who volunteer to speak aloud in class.
- increasing the number of students who enjoy oral presentations.
- increasing the number of students who use their journal well
- increasing the number of students who feel comfortable speaking to a member of staff if they have a problem.

It is important to note that the above results need to be understood in the context of the Covid pandemic.