Key questions:
- **What does a moderation visit involve?**
- **What is 'particular weakness'?**
- **How can I be sure my judgement is accurate?**

The prospect of being externally moderated doesn't need to be something to fill you with dread, fear or trepidation. Feeling nervous about it will be inevitable, but moderation is very much a collaborative working partnership between professionals; moderators visit your school to verify your judgements and support teachers by engaging in a thorough, professional dialogue, reading, enjoying and discussing pupils' writing.

Being accurate and confident in your judgements is vital - and this isn't just the Year 6 class teacher's responsibility by any means. Work with your Assessment Leader / SLT to support and finalise the judgements. It is really good practice – and something you will be asked about by your moderator – to engage in external moderation practice with local or partner schools. If you are a small school, being the only one teaching Year 6 can mean that you don't have the luxury teachers in larger schools do of having colleagues there to discuss and compare work with. Try to develop a regular system of joint moderation with other schools.

The Essex 'moderation window' this year is between 10th and 21st June 2019.

Follow @CamTSNet for more 'subjects on a page'

Key Stage Two Moderation 'on a Page'

On The Blogosphere

Clare Hodgson, Lead Moderator for Key Stage 2 Writing, reflects on last summer's moderations and draws out some successes and key lessons derived
https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/write-away-and-other-lessons-derived-2018-ks2-writing-moderations

Sophie MacNeill explores key findings from the 2018 Key Stage 1 moderation cycle
https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/taking-faff-out-taf

Know what the moderators know
On NCA Tools, you will find the materials used in this year's moderator training for both Key Stages One and Two. This includes detailed commentaries on a number of different collections of writing to help you to see what is or is not greater depth and why.

https://ncatools.education.gov.uk/teacher-assessment/DownloadModerationMaterials.aspx?productcategory=20

https://ncatools.education.gov.uk/teacher-assessment/DownloadModerationMaterials.aspx?productcategory=21

What should I read?
The statutory exemplars and guidance.

The moderator training materials published in the Teacher Assessment section of NCA Tools

Teacher Assessment Guidance
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758373/KS2_TA_Guidance_2018-19.pdf

Teacher Assessment Frameworks
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teacher-assessment-frameworks-at-the-end-of-key-stage-2

'Particular Weakness' and Evidence
The Teacher Assessment Framework is a 'secure fit' model. A pupil's writing should meet all the 'pupil can' statements within the standard they are judged to be working at. However, 'teachers can now use their discretion to ensure that, on occasion, a particular weakness does not prevent an accurate judgement being made of a pupil's overall attainment.' A 'particular weakness' can relate to a part or the whole of a statement (or statements). A 'particular weakness' may relate to a learning difficulty, but it is not limited to this. Similarly, a learning difficulty does not automatically constitute a 'particular weakness' that would prevent an accurate judgement. Examples and scenarios of 'good reasons' for an allowance of a 'particular weakness' in the writing are included within the pack of moderation materials available to all schools via the 'Teacher Assessment' tab on NCA tools. If you are considering using 'particular weakness' to support your judgement, you must be able to show what you have done to help and support a child in overcoming this weakness. This could include evidence of their participation in targeted intervention groups and scaffold supports used in classroom practice.

Who should I follow on Twitter?

Sophie MacNeill - @sophiemacneill
Clare Hodgson - @AssessmentClare
Michael Tidd - @MichaelT1979
James Durran - @jdurran