We would like to begin by thanking the reviewers for their extremely positive feedback for our manuscript entitled “Are they reading my feedback? The extent of students’ feedback use has a large impact subsequent academic performance”. Analysing, carving and crafting this data set into a publishable manuscript with a coherent story has been a mammoth task, so we were relieved to hear that you found the material accessible, with the majority of the manuscript being very readable and engaging. Below are our specific responses to each Reviewer.

Reviewer 1:

Thank you for your very detailed and encouraging review, and yes we are currently working the think-aloud interview findings into a follow-up manuscript. As suggested, we have re-worked paragraph 2 on page 12 (now the first paragraph on page 13) to reduce the amount of data embedded and improve readability. Instead of adding another table, we have altered Figure 3 to show the statistical comparisons more explicitly.

Reviewer 2:

Thank you for your strong support of this manuscript and detailed suggestions for improving sections in need of additional clarity.

1. We have moved the analysis of audio comments and formula for conversion into words/annotation to the methods section (page 9, paragraph 1, line 5).

2. We have reworked pages 10-12 (most of the Feedback Provision section) to replace the numerical data with more accessible descriptions of the magnitude of changes or differences (eg "twice as many" or "~30% more"). Although we retained the references to the figures to ensure the readers could see the mean and SEM data for themselves, we tried to move these references to the end of each sentence so as to improve flow and readability. We have also added subheadings to provide the readers with landmarks as they work through the multiple comparisons.

3. We agreed, however, that the data on page 15 needed to be moved to a table, and have therefore added in Table 2 to highlight the differences between the extent of student interaction with final reports and their earlier reports.

Reviewer 3:

We appreciate your concerns about the visual impact of the figures when the manuscript goes to print. As this work is underpinned by an extensive, quantitative data set, we believe it is important to provide readers with enough data for them to make their own informed decisions about the findings and conclusions we have drawn. Given the complexity of the data set – two levels of courses, each with repeated semesters and a varied number of progressive assessment tasks - we feel strongly that graphs (rather than tables, or text alone) provide the clearest and most transparent representation of the important patterns, especially when viewed across the large set of measurable outcomes underpinning the work. To ensure the figures are clear, complete, and not overwhelming to readers, we would be very happy to work through multiple styles and layouts with the copy editors for both the online and print renditions.