

Diploma Newsletter

Summer 2010, Edition 8

The Diploma

I just want to start by saying well done to all the consortia and Local Authorities that were successful through Gateway 4. The Diploma team wish you every success with your new Diploma lines of learning. Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to all of you that I have had contact with over the three years that I have been working on Diplomas. It has been an exciting time, mainly because of all the innovation and creativity I have had the pleasure of witnessing as I have travelled up and down the country. However, my new position keeps me close to 14-19 developments at Edexcel as I embark on a new role working on the development of our new Apprenticeship offer.

Louise Richardson

Do you need support or information about your Diploma line of learning?

If you have recently found out you have been successful through Gateway 4 for any Diploma line and would like specifications and further material from Edexcel, simply follow this [link](#) to our Online Expression of Interest form and we will be more than happy to provide you with the support you need. Alternatively call our Diploma Line on **0844 576 0028**, where one of team will help you with any queries.

Islington overcome the traditional view of the Environment and Land-Based Diploma

For this edition of the Edexcel Diploma newsletter, Ben Burrows, Course Leader for the Environment and Land-Based Diploma in Islington, gives us a fascinating and motivating interview into how he has overcome the traditional stereotypes associated with this line of learning to provide a unique opportunity for learners in Islington.

Tell me about your department and the learners you have on the programme?

"We believe that we have a unique offer, as we are the only inner-city college that is offering the Environment and Land-Based Studies Diploma. Before September 2009 there had been no environmental or land based subjects offered here and the college invested heavily at the start of the year kitting out the laboratory and the animal care centre, which houses our exotic animal breeding centre. We now currently offer a 16+ Higher and an Advanced Diploma. Each class has about 16 learners in it. Next year we will be expanding to offer a 16+ Foundation Diploma and a 14-16 Higher Diploma in association with the local schools.

We work with local partners including Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), London Zoo, Natural History Museum, Argent Developers (At Kings Cross Rail Development), London Parks, Kings College and our partner college; Oaklands in St. Albans, to name a few."

Do you think there are constraints to offering the Environmental and Land Based Diploma in an urban setting?

"No, we deliver and teach the Environment and Land-Based Diploma content in a context that is relevant to our students. Most of our students had never seen an exotic animal before, many had no idea how plants grew, or what the word 'sustainability' meant. Instead of teaching our students about how to turn a field into a working productive piece of land, we look to urban examples such as maintaining sports pitches, recreational parks, growing organic vegetables using rooftop gardens and planters.

Young people are already aware of environmental issues such as global warming, food and water shortages before they study with us, so it is not a difficult course to sell. There is no point in trying to base the course about tractors, how to harvest wheat using combine-harvesters. It is very important that everybody understands what this course is about, which can be achieved through effective marketing to prospective students, teachers, parents, schools and Connexions advisors."

What types of learning activities do you do with your learners?

"The learning needs to be of a high academic quality, but at the same time, relevant to the real world. In every lesson we try to have either a practical activity or an applied activity as part of the lesson. While for some subjects this is difficult, it is a matter of being creative. We do not have a large amount of space, but we use the environment that we have got to its full potential. We also work with our partner college, Oaklands around lambing season, to give them a taste of how lambing works."

What types of progression do you anticipate for these learners?

"The majority of our advanced learners want to go to university to study a range of subjects such as zoology, environmental science and ecology. We are in contact with universities making sure that they are happy with our learners, the course and the content of the teaching. We do have a couple of students wanting to take the vocational route, such as tree surgery, horticulture and one wants to move into veterinary nursing. The Diploma allows us to encourage and cater to all types of interests. This year on our advanced course we have students taking a mixture of A-levels and BTECs as ASL.

The world is changing and the Diploma is one of a very few qualifications pre-university that can teach students about real world issues. It is also a way for them to see that their own lifestyles do affect the world and that they can change the world we live in. Our goal is to ensure that the future generations are aware of this and can do something about it."



Diploma Learner Tracker

We have launched our free online service, Learner Tracking, which highlights the potential issues that may prevent a Diploma from aggregating successfully. It enables centres to get an overview of their learner's component entries, clearly identifying where there are associated issues, and giving advice on how to resolve those issues. For more information on Learner Tracking visit www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/learner-tracking.

Live Chat

In addition to our support range you can now message the Edexcel Diploma Centre Support Officers at www.edexcel.com/diplomalivechat and receive an immediate response to any queries relating to the administration of the Diploma. Diploma Live Chat is available weekdays from 08:30 until 17:00. Subject specific queries should be directed to Ask the Expert, for more information on this visit www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/Pages/askaquestion



Diploma Operations Pack

We have just created a new version of the popular Diploma Operations Pack which guides you through every element of the planning, delivery and administration of the Diploma in a clear and concise way. The pack contains lots of useful action plans, advice and guidance. This material is free and can be obtained by emailing diplomaops@edexcel.com.

Alternatively you can download most of the material from our website www.edexcel.com/diplomas and by clicking on the administration tab.



Planning for January 2011 assessment for Phase 3?



For those of you planning to deliver any Phase 3 Diploma Principal Learning subjects from September 2010. The only units that will be made available in January 2011 are the external units at Level 1 and 2. In June 2011, all units will be made available. This unit availability only affects Phase 3 subjects which include Travel and Tourism, Sport and Active Leisure, Hospitality and Public Services.

Free practical Diploma Curriculum Days

Our Diploma Curriculum Days are designed to help you develop and integrate all Diploma components into a clear teaching programme.

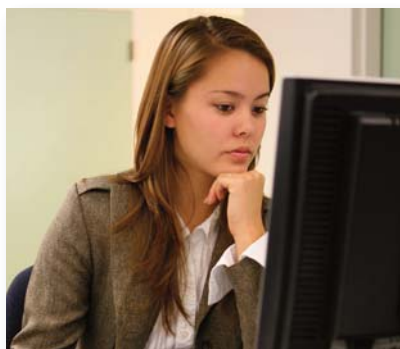
Workshops

- Getting to grips with assessment
- Diploma Delivery Strategy
- Functional Skills
- Project
- Making sense of QCF/ASL developments
- Top tips for effective consortium administration.

The dates, locations and course codes are:

Date	Location	Event Code
Wednesday 30 June 2010	York	9NJB15/12
Thursday 1 July 2010	Manchester	9NJB15/13
Friday 2 July 2010	Birmingham	9NJB15/14
Wednesday 7 July 2010	Bristol	9NJB15/15
Thursday 8 July 2010	London	9NJB15/16

These events are aimed at local authority staff, Diploma advisors, practitioners, assessors and line leaders. For more information and how to book your place visit www.edexcel.com/Quals/Diploma/Pages/training



Online Training

We have been busy running a series of online webcasts over the last couple of months. However, it is not too late to sign up to the May series. Here are the titles, dates and booking codes. These are free interactive online training sessions which support some of the questions we are asked frequently about Diplomas.

To book onto any of our Diploma training events:

- Call 0844 576 0028 - Book online; or
- Post or fax us your completed booking form.

Name	Date	Time	Code
Diploma Administration	18/05/2010	4-5pm	9OJB03/03
Top 10 Tips for Successful Diploma Delivery	25/05/2010	4-5pm	9OJB04/03

Are you ready to deliver?

Remember to download our Diploma Training Directory and book onto our Countdown to Delivery events that will look at everything from the specification to assessment requirements to help you prepare and be ready for delivery in September 2010. For more information please go to www.edexcel.com/diploma-training-directory



Hair and Beauty launch events

Come and see us at one of our free half-day Hair and Beauty Studies launch events. These events will provide you with your first chance to see what we have to offer.

You will:

- have a detailed look at some of the Principal Learning units Edexcel have developed
- see what it's like to deliver and assess
- find out the vast range of support Edexcel has to offer you as a customer.

To book onto one of these events visit the our website www.edexcel.com/diploma-hbevents

Assignment Review Service

We will be continuing the free assignment review service we currently have on offer. If you are writing internal assessments for Principal Learning and would like one of our Senior Moderators to check the suitability of your assignments you are writing you can send them to diploma.assignments@edexcel.com. This will ensure that your assignment briefs will be fit for purpose and allow your learners to achieve the full range of mark bands. For more information on this service visit the Diploma Support pages of our website www.edexcel.com/quals/diploma/Pages/support.aspx.

Phase 4 Diplomas

Phase 4 Diplomas in humanities, languages and science are currently being developed by Edexcel. Shortly we will be able to provide you with a timeline of availability of specifications and resource development.

Moderator Training 2010

After the successful series of Moderation Training events we held in December 2009 we were once more supported by DCSF to provide free training for all Domain Assessors. We further expanded this series to include Business, Administration and Finance as well as all the first 5 lines of learning and the Project qualifications. The training provided Domain Assessors with the opportunity to access the key elements of the training that is provided for Edexcel Moderators. By the end of the day Domain Assessors had a clear understanding of how learner' work is moderated which will enable them to ensure that assessors within their consortium are assessing to the required standard. With over 200 Domain Assessors booked onto the events they were extremely successful and all of the feedback received so far has been very positive.

"A brilliant day and very useful. Fulfilled all my expectations and gave me a lot to think about."

Jon Meyer, Southampton City College

"Moderator training was great. I can honestly say, it's the best Diploma training event I've attended"

Matthew Holmes, Strode College

"The trainer delivered an enjoyable and informative session. He gave plenty of time covering issues some people had and was willing to answer all questions put to him. I am now more aware of the issues related to the Domain Assessors role, and feel more positive about the part I need to play in relation to other staff teaching the qualification." *Paul McCormack, Blackpool & the Fylde College*

"I found the training really helpful and informative. A day well spent!" *Fiona Hulme, Stoke College*

Recruitment

We currently have opportunities to become a Senior Assessment Associate for the 14-19 Diploma for the following lines of learning: • **Construction and the Built Environment** • **Engineering** • **Manufacturing and Product Design**

As a Senior Assessment Associate, you will be supporting the preparation and delivery of the new Diploma qualifications, setting the standards required and will ultimately lead a team of examiners and/or moderators.

Please visit www.edexcel.com/aa-recruitment, and select 'vacancies' and then click on 'Diploma' to complete an online application form and view role descriptions.

Introducing Tracey Edghill, the new Diploma National Manager

Over the past 16 years, I have held several successful management posts in the private sector for the UK's largest blue chip telecommunications company. Additionally, I have worked in a Further Education College Business Development Unit as a Business Development Manager. I have a Masters Degree in Business Administration, am a volunteer for the Open University and a member of the Chartered Management Institute.

I joined Edexcel in July 2009 as the National Manager for Work Based Learning managing the Foundation Learning suite of qualifications at Entry & Level 1 working with Schools, Further Education Colleges and Work Based Learning providers. In my new role as the National Manager for Diplomas I will support you with the Diploma by offering excellent training/CPD opportunities, qualification resources and support material to aid successful Diploma planning, assessing and delivery.

I look forward to working with you and building a total curriculum solution for your Diploma success.

Kind Regards,
Tracey Edghill



Contact us

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About Edexcel

Edexcel is a Pearson company and the UK's largest awarding body. We offer academic and vocational qualifications and testing to schools, colleges, employers and other places of learning here and in over 85 countries worldwide.