

Diploma Newsletter

January 2010, Edition 7

The Diploma

Welcome back to the spring term. I hope that you had a good Christmas and a successful term of new Diploma delivery or second year delivery for those of you in Gateway 1. I have included all the latest information and developments from Edexcel, including the current position of Diplomas, from our Head of Policy Development, Steve Besley. If you have any further questions or comments please do get in touch at louise.richardson@edexcel.com.

Looking to the future of the Diploma

A lot of time, effort and resources have gone in to making the 14-19 reform programme work but inevitably people are asking what will happen in the future especially if there is a change of government?

No one knows for sure but a number of developments over the autumn have helped clarify positions a little. It's worth stating from the start that apart from the Liberal-Democrats, neither major political Party has said it will scrap Diplomas.

Labour remain committed to phased development of Diplomas with an overall review in 2012. In the next few weeks, the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualification Approval (JACQA) will complete their first formal review of how the 14-19 qualification system is shaping up and present their conclusions to Ministers. This will help determine developments in the future.

The Conservatives have gradually been developing their education agenda with a series of keynote speeches and a major work-related Paper to their autumn conference. Their opposition to the Phase 4 Diplomas is well known but beyond that they seem keen to ensure Diplomas are part of their 14-19 offer.

Steve Besley, Head of Policy Development

Barking College come to Edexcel

Sixteen IT Diploma students from Barking College paid a visit to the Edexcel Head Office in Holborn last term, to get their first taste of a business environment and for Edexcel this was an opportunity to support employer engagement within the Diploma.

The students used the Edexcel boardroom as a base for the day and had interactive sessions from various parts of the business, and a tour of the IT department, where different members of staff chatted with students about their jobs.

Later on in the day students learnt about the key benefits of IT to the organisation and the potential of IT along with a demonstration of the web based system ePen, and how it enables examiners to mark students scripts online. Mark Jordan one of the key developers of Results Plus gave students a 'hands on' session on PCs working with this application and involved them in helping him develop the next stage of Results Plus for students.

The day was concluded in a competitive spirit when students were separated into two teams and were tasked to build animals from a design specification and to meet the needs of their 'customers' played by the project management team. Students experienced a business simulation game that was as close as you can get to software development projects.

Throughout the day students were involved in activities that encouraged them to brainstorm and problem solve. Laurence Johnson the course tutor said 'the trip was very informative, engaging and pitched at the right level'. Some of the students were reluctant to leave and insisted on keeping their day pass from the visit!



Meet your Centre Support Officer

Every Edexcel consortium has an Edexcel Diploma Centre Support Officer (CSO) allocated to them. The CSO is there to support customers through their learners' Diploma journey and to facilitate the smooth running of the Diploma qualification ensuring that all administrative procedures and requirements are met. They also serve as the point of contact if any specific training needs relevant to the members in your consortium are identified. They will endeavour to arrange training events and develop support packages to address any training needs identified. If you have not yet been contacted by your CSO then please email Diplomaops@edexcel.com.

Moderator Training

In light of the success of our series of Domain Assessor Training events in summer 2009, Edexcel was again supported by the DCSF to deliver a free training day for all Domain Assessors. The training which originally covered the first 5 lines of learning was extended to also include Project qualifications due to high demand. The training provided the opportunity for Domain Assessors 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.



Diploma Expo Events 2009

Over 600 delegates attended our free, exciting events in Birmingham, London and Manchester last October, taking advantage of a series of lively and interactive workshops and the opportunity to network. Delegates were also able to visit the exhibition to meet our partner organisations and several Edexcel stands to receive information on various products and services linked to the Diploma. Feedback from the events was enthusiastic and excellent.

"Outstanding structure and content throughout the day." Burton College

"Informative and showed me good ways to move forward" Hugh Christie Technology College

Previewing the Diploma

During November and December, Edexcel ran a series of successful 'Previewing the Diploma' events for all our lines of learning. Delegates who attended these free half day sessions, had an in-depth look at the Edexcel Principal Learning specification and units and had an opportunity to meet and chat with our senior assessment team.

Paul Miles head of Physical Education at Mandeville School said ***"This has been the most useful Diploma related training I have been on."***

Jennifer Stafford-Brown Senior Assessment Associate for Edexcel said "The Previewing the Diploma events for Sport and Active Leisure were well received by all of the delegates who gave lots of positive feedback that clearly indicated their enthusiasm for this new qualification"

Visit our Diploma training page of the Edexcel website for up to date information on events and online training at www.edexcel.com/diplomatraining



How is Edexcel developing its support for Project and the Extended Project?

Our Project team have been working hard on a new look website which is full of essential information for tutors involved in the delivery and assessment of these qualifications. There is a new student area with advice and guidance for learners undertaking the Project or Extended Project, as well as case studies showing how these qualifications are being used in the curriculum. Look out for live work that will be available on this site from January along with exemplar titles. This will be followed later in the spring with guidance on how to select a good project title.

Make sure you have requested a copy of the specification which is accompanied by our essential teachers guide to delivering the Project by calling 01623 467467, quoting PR019652.

The website address is www.edexcel.com/project

Take a look at the range of training opportunities for the Project and Extended Project by following this link:

www.edexcel.com/project-training

Matchware

MatchWare Ltd (www.matchware.com) produces Mindview 3 Business and Mediator 9, both endorsed by Edexcel for the IT Diploma. MindView is a mind mapping tool used to effectively plan Diploma work and Mediator allows learners of all levels to create high quality CD-ROM, HTML or Flash projects without requiring coding and scripting.



Are you interested in working with Edexcel?

Edexcel is currently recruiting Principal Moderators for the following subjects:

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Manufacturing and Product Design

Examiners and Moderators for the following subject areas:

Phase 1 – Construction and the built Environment, Creative and Media, Engineering, Information Technology and Society, Health and Development

Phase 2 – Business, Administration and Finance, Environmental and Lnad based, Hospitality and Manufacturing and Product Design

To apply, please visit: www.edexcel.com/aa-recruitment, select 'vacancies' and then click on 'diploma' to view role descriptions and complete an online application form

Stand by your TVs!!!

Look out for the new Diploma TV advert. Music artist Kano gave Diploma students from all lines of learning a chance to showcase the work they do and to celebrate what they can achieve in their chosen subjects. The result of this project is available for you to view now! <http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/kano/>

Meet one of the Team

Harjinder
Dhaliwal

Diploma Business
Manager



I graduated from university with a BA (Honours) in Business

Studies and went on to study for a CIM Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing. My career background is product management within the private sector and the education market.

I joined Edexcel in August 2009, as the Diploma Business Manager. My role involves assisting with the implementation of the strategy, maintaining a commercial view of the market and helping in the management of the product portfolio.

So far, I have focused on striving to ensure that the Diploma website is up to date for our customer needs and making contacts with employers and other key stakeholders. I am responsible, for managing the training events in order to ensure consortia are fully supported to plan, assess and deliver the Diploma successfully.

I am thoroughly enjoying working on the diverse breadth of the lines of learning. It is rewarding, as the feedback from the learners and teaching staff so far has been extremely positive to this new qualification.

I am looking forward to the opportunities ahead and being involved in 'building a total curriculum solution for your Diploma success.'

Sample Diploma Student Work

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

We are delighted to be able to offer sample student work for Phase One Principal Learning subjects. The purpose of these materials is to help practitioners understand the requirements of Principal Learning through commentary on extracts of learner work. We have used a selection of evidence across a range of learner performance to help improve understanding of how to maximise performance.

This material has been selected and commented on by our Senior Moderation team after the first year of reviewing and setting the standards on the initial cohort of learners.

You will be able to access this additional support in the secure content section within your Principal Learning website area at the end of January. For further questions around Principal Learning specifications please use our Ask The Expert service, for a direct response from our Senior team.

Business Administration and Finance: Diplomabusiness@edexcelexperts.com

Construction and the Built Environment: Diplomaconsandbuiltenviron@edexcelexperts.com

Creative & Media: Diplomacreativeandmedia@edexcelexperts.com

Environmental and Land-based Studies: Diplomalandbased@edexcelexperts.com

Engineering: Diplomaengineering@edexcelexperts.com

Hospitality: Diplomahospitality@edexcelexperts.com

IT: Diplomait@edexcelexperts.com

Manufacturing and Product Design: Diplomamanufacturing@edexcelexperts.com

Society Health and Development: Diplomasohealthdev@edexcelexperts.com

Are you ready to assess learners?

Make sure you download our Diploma Training Directory and book a place on our events that will prepare you to deliver and assess the components of the Diploma. As well as our national events we have a customised programme of training to support your consortia. Please go to www.edexcel.com/diploma-training-directory

Functional Skills - Free pilot centre teaching and learning resources

We now have free downloadable resources for Functional English, mathematics and ICT; they are ideal for supporting the delivery of functional skills and preparing learners for assessment.

You can download each set of resources here: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/func-skills/Pages/resources.aspx>.

Latest Information on Additional Specialist Learning

- Look out for the new version of the ASL catalogue on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ) which will be realised in February 2010.
- Edexcel is pleased to announce that all accredited BTEC Level 3 Specialist qualifications have now had UCAS points agreed. Further information regarding this can be found on the UCAS website www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff/tariffables. We will also be realising an updated version of our policy document which contains the SCAAT an UCAS for each component of the Diploma to encompass these additions.
- If you are currently planning your Additional Specialist Learning we recommend that you use the new QCDA validator service (<http://diplomavalidator.qcda.gov.uk/>) which will determine if you have a valid combination of components for aggregation.

Diploma Operations Pack

Last term our Diploma Awarding Body (DAB) team produced a highly successful Diploma Operations Pack. Guiding you through all the requirements of the Diploma, this comprehensive set of materials includes a quick guide to your start-to-finish process, study plans, The Diploma sections of the Edexcel Information manual and a walkthrough of Edexcel Diploma Administration. These have been so popular that we have had to undertake a new print run. However, in the meantime you can view the documents here: www.edexcel.com/diploma-admin. You may find the study plans especially helpful. We have designed programmes of study for each line of learning, at each level and for one and two year programmes. Please contact your Centre Support Officer via diplomaops@edexcel.com to be sent a copy of the pack when it becomes available again.

Be part of our Edexcel Research Panel and make a difference

Edexcel launched its online research panel site in March 2009, a dedicated site to seek out views and comments on the full range of Edexcel qualifications and propositions. We now have **over 2,700 active panel members** who have helped us to gather feedback on a range of our academic and vocational qualifications and propositions.

Existing benefits for panel members are: key highlights from surveys, results to quick poll questions, a News section and a dedicated research Forum area. Each panel member will be rewarded by types of activities carried out on the panel. For example, surveys completed, up-to-date member's profile or participation in blogs/chats or discussions.

Prize Draws will still take place, and once a panel member has gathered **at least 1,000 Bonus Points (=£10)**, these can be redeemed against a range of vouchers. Join and take part in new activities, and have a chance to be included in our special draw to win **1 New Apple iPod Touch 32GB by 31st of January 2010**.

Go and visit our site www.TheEdexcel-BTECpanel.com

Don't forget....

If you are intending to use Edexcel for Principal Learning, please make sure you complete an Intent to Offer Form that can be found here: www.edexcel.com/diploma-admin

We can then send you our Welcome Pack and ensure you receive information and regular updates on everything Diploma related.

Please remember, if you have entered learners for this January's assessment series for Principal Learning, Project or Extended Project your sample must be with Edexcel for January 10th.

Also, make sure you have a copy of our Diploma Training Directory to plan your CPD requirements for the rest of the year. To order a copy call 01623 467 467 and quote order code Z021928 or go to www.edexcel.com/diploma-training-directory to download a copy.

Happy New Year to you all from the Edexcel Diploma Team.



Contact us

Edexcel
190 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH
For further Diploma information: www.edexcel.com/diplomas
Online enquiries: www.edexcel.com/contactus
Diploma enquiries: 0844 576 0028
Fax: 020 7190 5700
www.edexcel.com

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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.