

Diploma Newsletter

The Diploma

Edition 2

Diploma News

Here we are, nearing the end of term, with first teaching of Diplomas just round the corner for Gateway 1 consortia and with Gateway 2 consortia scaling up their plans and organisation for 2009. Here is a snapshot of Edexcel developments and updates that have taken place since the last newsletter in March.

Building Your Total Solution

An Edexcel team has been around the country running support events for Gateway 1 consortia. The 'Building Your Total Solution' events were aimed at understanding and implementing the linkages between the Diploma components. Delivery suggestions and the latest Diploma information was provided courtesy of Jim Dobson our Director of Product Development. The days were fast and furious with lots of workshop activities delivered by our Curriculum Development Managers to support final plans for September. Delegates also had the opportunity to collect information on teaching resources and meet with our partners such as u-xplore, Rock School, Safe Learner and Perspective.

Principal Learning Assessment Methods

As Diploma developments progress, QCA is keen to see a separation of learning and assessment. Teachers delivering the phase 2 Principal Learning specifications should note that there must be opportunities for clear assessment activities at the end of every unit. It will not be sufficient to collect class work from learners that meet various aspects of the assessment criteria as they move through each unit and record this in a portfolio of evidence-atomistic assessment. There must be one piece of continuous assessment at the end of the unit, based on the assessment criteria or smaller distinct and related tasks throughout the delivery of the unit.

Specifications

Phase 1 specifications are now being despatched to all consortia that have completed an Intent to Offer form. Free copies can be ordered from our regional offices. Please see the end of the newsletter for the contact details. If you are not in Gateway 1, we will be writing to you at the end of July to give you the opportunity to order your specifications. All specifications are on the Diploma website.

Phase 2 Principal Learning

At the time of going to press we are awaiting the outcomes of a QCA decision on the Phase 2 subjects. We are likely to have this information at the start of July and we will post the announcement on our website.

Training from Edexcel

During July we will be running further Extended Project training and Project training. Please see our website for further information. From October we will be running our next round of Diploma launch events. The dates will be announced shortly on our website. We continue to offer free half day consultancy with our specialists as well as customised training to meet your specific needs. In the new term you can expect training and support on all the elements of the Diplomas as well as regional network meetings that will include guidance on the lead and domain assessor roles. So to get the latest information and direction on Diplomas and to hear about our plans, sign up for email alerts and be the first to book your place.

We will be developing an exciting online training offer that will enable training to be accessed without even leaving your centre. You will also be able to interact with the trainer and share the session with other colleagues after the event has taken place. More details of these events will follow in September.

Diploma Operations Contact Details

Centres are invited to email operational Diploma queries to diplomaops@edexcel.org.uk

Customers Service Contact Number

Centres can contact Edexcel by phone on 0844 576 0028.

Assignment Review Service

Edexcel is offering a six week Assignment Review service for all five Phase 1 Lines of Learning. From 2 June to 17 July, consortia are invited to submit assignments and schemes of work to Edexcel for feedback from our assignment experts. Edexcel will provide comment on the suitability of these assignments and whether, if completed effectively, they will enable the learner to reach the learning outcomes as defined in the specification. Consortia should email their assignments to diploma.assignments@edexcel.org.uk. We will provide feedback via email within 14 working days. This service is free of charge.

Ask the Expert

We have now extended our Ask the Expert Service to the Principal Learning units. Our experts are there to answer your detailed subject specific questions concerning the teaching of qualifications. Queries can be submitted to the email addresses below:

diplomasochealthdev@edexcelexperts.co.uk

diplomait@edexcelexperts.co.uk

diplomaengineering@edexcelexperts.co.uk

diplomaconsandbuiltenviron@edexcelexperts.co.uk

diplomacreativeandmedia@edexcelexperts.co.uk

Teacher Support Material

The Teacher Support Material, including Sample Assessment Materials, will be in centres by the end of the Summer Term. In addition, centres will be able to download a selection of sample tasks for all internally assessed units. We will be releasing a Centre Guidance document which will be in draft format on our website by the end of July and in hard copy in centres by September. This guidance document will outline our moderation processes and give guidance on the conduct of externally assessed units.

Senior Examiner Recruitment

We are currently recruiting writers and Senior Assessment Associates for Phases 2 and 3. As a Diploma 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 moderators/examiners. As a writer you will be expected to write the units and tutor support materials. Writers may also be expected to technically edit/review units within their chosen sector/subject area. Full training will be provided. Applications close on the 11th July. Details of how to apply for these posts can be found at the following link:

<http://associates.edexcel.org.uk/home/td/>

Registration and Entry

The Registration and Entry process for the Principal Learning units has now been defined. Details of how to complete this process will be given in the Information Manual which will be on the website shortly and sent to Exams Officers in hard copy by the Autumn term. Further information on consortium management and moderation will be given in the Centre Guidance document which will be available by July.

January Assessment Opportunities

Edexcel will be making selected Principal Learning Units available for assessment in January 09. Details of these units can be found at the following link:

<http://developments.edexcel.org.uk/diplomas/news/awarding-assessment.htm>

Teacher Resources and Guidance

Perspective

Edexcel has recently teamed up with Perspective, an organisation that is able to supply software to track and monitor attendance and attainment of learners across the consortia. It works in real time so you will always know when students have arrived at their delivery centre. The system also has full reporting facilities to share information with staff, parents and learners. For more information please contact: <http://www.perspective-uk.com/perspective/schools/perspective-for-schools>

U-xplore

U-xplore is currently developing its resource base further by supplying schemes of work and lesson plans that follow the Ofsted four part lesson plan structure. These are aimed to support the work based learning experience of students. U-xplore continues to work with Edexcel to provide specific, interactive and engaging content for Diploma learners.

Learning Resources

Pearson Edexcel Learning now has a full range of level 1 and 2 student books and teacher guides. Level 3 student books and teacher guides will be available at the start of November. In January 2009, Project support material will also be made available. All consortia that have completed an Intent to Offer form will receive a 25% discount on resources. To make an order follow this web link: www.edexceldiplomas.co.uk

Functional Skills Pilot News

The pilot is going well. We have received positive feedback on the assessment models and continue to work closely with QCA. We have been engaged to conduct further research on assessment, particularly with Employers, FE and Training Providers. If you are such a provider and wish to be involved with this research, please email FSDevelopments@edexcel.org.uk as soon as possible.

From September 2008, the teaching and learning of Functional Skills will be in the new secondary curriculum. Functional Skills is embedded in KS3 at Level 1 and KS4 at Level 2.

We realise some of you may be looking to pilot Functional Skills from this September 2008. QCA guidance to consortia and to awarding bodies is that participation in the Functional Skills Pilot (FS Pilot) is still limited BUT the following categories of centres can join:

- All centres in consortia offering Diplomas from Sept 08 (Gateway 1)
- Three centres from each consortium through Gateway 2 (Diplomas from September 2009) - further guidance is on the QCA and Gateway websites
- Centres with adult cohorts
- Centres taking part in the Foundation Learning Tier pilot
- A limited number of apprenticeships

How to join our Pilot ?

We would be delighted if you would apply to join our pilot. Please contact birmingham@edexcel.org.uk for a registration form.

Additional Support & Contacts

If you have a specific Functional Skills query, our **Ask the Expert** email service will put you in direct contact with subject experts who will help answer your question.

Subject Area	Ask the Expert Email Address
English	functionalskillsenglish@edexcelexperts.co.uk
ICT	functionalskillsict@edexcelexperts.co.uk
Maths	functionalskillsmaths@edexcelexperts.co.uk

The latest specifications are now available from the Functional Skills website:
<http://developments.edexcel.org.uk/fs/tgns/>

Please do not hesitate to contact your Curriculum Development Manager. Alternatively, please call our team on 0121 616 2585 or email birmingham@edexcel.org.uk or to contact the pilot, email Fspilot.recruitment@edexcel.org.uk

FS Events/Training

- Additional training events are planned for Edexcel Pilot centres in the Autumn.
- Half day Assessment Briefings for non pilot centres are planned for November 2008. These will be posted on our website.
- Customised training is available. Please email Diplomaevents@edexcel.org.uk
- For Gateway 1 consortia there is a flexible package of support available to Functional Skills practitioners
- There will be locally negotiated support modules for Gateway 1 and 2 centres commencing in October 2008.

For further information on support go to: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=events.supportevent>

FS Learning Resources

All Edexcel Pilot centres for Functional Skills currently have free access to the full range of support resources, including teacher and student materials, ICT Digital assets and practice assessments. Newly released material designed to support the teaching of Functional Skills English: Speaking and Listening, can be accessed here: <http://developments.edexcel.org.uk/fs/flr/>

The next edition of the newsletter will be in September. We would like to hear from you if you would like to make a contribution to the next edition. Perhaps you have run a successful Diploma induction session, or you have some learners that would like to make a contribution. Please submit any articles by Friday September 12th to louise.richardson@edexcel.org.uk.

For all Gateway 1 centres starting in September we wish you every success with your new Diploma qualifications.

Regional Offices

Birmingham	0121 616 2585 birmingham@edexcel.org.uk
Bristol	0117 950 1908 bristol@edexcel.org.uk
Cardiff	0292 079 4865 cardiff@edexcel.org.uk
Leeds	0113 224 2255 leeds@edexcel.org.uk
London	020 7190 5300 london&seregion@edexcel.org.uk
Manchester	855 7560 manchester@edexcel.org.uk

Useful Links

The Edexcel Diploma Website: <http://developments.edexcel.org.uk/diplomas>

Diploma Customer support phone number: 0844 576 0028

Diploma email address: Diplomas@edexcel.org.uk

Ask Edexcel: <http://edexcel--5571.custhelp.com/>

DCFS: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/>

NAA: <http://www.naa.org.uk/>

QCA: <http://www.qca.org.uk/default.aspx>

Teacher net: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/>