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## Onscreen success

This summer's onscreen marking of three million scripts — the most anywhere in the UK — has been an "outstanding success" according to Edexcel managing director Jerry Jarvis.

"I'm delighted and very proud that we've achieved this. Moving to the ground-breaking ePen system has been a significant change to the way we operate, manage and run our examinations. We plan to increase the numbers of scripts still further to continue to give our centres and candidates the best possible service," said Jerry.

"I'd like to congratulate and thank the entire team, particularly our markers who have worked solidly and professionally with us to make this an outstanding success.

"As well as three million from the summer, with the January, March and November series, the total for this year will be closer to four million, which is 70 per cent of our marking for general qualifications."

More than £1m was invested at Edexcel's operations centre in Hellaby, near Doncaster, in 2005 alone to make sure that ePen was ready for this summer's jump to three million scripts, up from one million last summer.

David Hansell, general manager of operations, said the new Hellaby Operations Booking In and Tracking (HOBIT) system had worked well despite a few teething problems.

"It allows us to process the huge volumes of scripts we're now handling, and track scripts far more efficiently," said David.



Junior Treasury Minister John Healey sees ePen in action

"Just for the summer alone, we processed 67 million questions for marking onscreen."

As well as enhanced security and quality assurance, the ePen system also enables Edexcel to provide centres with detailed student and question level feedback through Edexcel Online. Peter Challinor, head of online assessment and development, said the system also delivered results earlier than conventional marking.

"Well over 90 per cent of marks were in by the award meetings, which makes the grade boundary settings more accurate," said Peter.

## Examiners 'prefer the new system'

Examiners have welcomed the latest extension of onscreen marking, said senior assessor Graham Newman. Graham, chief examiner for GCSE mathematics, said the continued growth of Edexcel's ePen system was good news for examiners, centres and candidates.

"We've been delighted with this summer's season," said Graham, who is responsible for more than 1,000 examiners. "We've received a lot of comments from examiners who have marked both the old and new systems and they now prefer working onscreen." ePen marking is more secure, more efficient, more accurate and easier to monitor, he said.

"We're continuing to refine and develop the onscreen process and the support we give to examiners. We take notice of feedback — there are some concerns over pay and the automatic monitoring system — and we're already looking at improvements for the next season."

He added: "Examiners, generally, are very pleased with ePen as it takes away all the postage and paper administration and allows them to focus on the marking itself."



Graham Newman

## Now it's easier to get in touch with us...

Contacting Edexcel becomes even easier from September with the launch of a new regional support structure.

A letter explaining the changes and giving contacts has been sent to all schools and further education centres from Trevor Luker, the man behind the "fundamental" overhaul of Edexcel's regional support operations.

"Our regional development managers (RDMs) are now able

to interact both with schools and FE centres rather than working with them as two separate groups," said Trevor, the head of UK Education. "We've also put together a support team of home-based RDMs to provide an enhanced level of support and service.

● Continued on page 2

## It's been a summer to remember

We've had an eventful time at Edexcel this summer. We have delivered the largest, and most successful onscreen assessment of examinations ever seen in the UK.

Edexcel is making nearly 70 per cent of its results available to teachers through its Results Analysis Service, giving unique levels of feedback on students' performance on a question by question level, allowing comparison with one student's work to the rest of the class, the school and with students across the country.

The system has been developed in concert with examiners who are currently teaching, and many have told us that this "instant" analysis will save them many hours of poring over spreadsheets!

However, the year has also been characterised by considerable challenges in management, technology and marking programmes.

My thanks this year go to our team of examiners, assessors and markers who have helped deliver the most successful series of exam results ever. Particular mention goes to the examiners and staff at one of our London marking centres who found themselves involved in the terrible events of 7 July.

The bombed London bus was outside of our Lynton House premises and some of our staff rushed to help those caught up in the horror. Edexcel personnel were quickly accounted for and evacuated into temporary marking centres set up at our other London offices, where other staff moved to hot desks around other floors, making use of desks of colleagues who were on leave. Their professionalism and flexibility made it possible for us to get back on track and to recover ground in marking.

I thank them.

Regards  
Jerry Jarvis

## More info and better access

### Continued from page 1

"Running parallel to this is a new team of curriculum development managers who are focused on providing information about our entire 14-19 offer. Most importantly, they'll be also providing support for our new or changing qualifications," said Trevor "Our centres can now get more focused information at a regional and a support level much quicker than before and have better access to the RDMs.

"These are fundamental changes. Our support structure is now more harmonious and joined-up, enabling us to get concise information to centres in a speedier and more effective way. It also reflects the way education is going with more schools and colleges working strategically together.

"As part of the initiative, we've also tightened up the borders of our seven support regions so that they better match the LEA or LSC areas they deal with."

# English GCSE pilot proving a winner

Centres have been quick to see the benefits of Edexcel's new modular English and English Studies GCSE. The 100 places on this September's pilot filled quickly and there is already a waiting list to join next year's. Lynne Roberts, portfolio manager for English, is not surprised by the numbers coming forward. She said the combination of a new modular, untiered structure, comprehensive support and expanded content for assessment — including units on the moving image, digital communication and spoken English studies — made the GCSE an innovative option to refresh a school's English provision.

"The pilot is an exciting addition to Edexcel's three main GCSE English specifications," said Lynne.

"The content, the availability of single and double awards and short course and new modes of assessment are all designed to motivate and stretch students of all abilities, encouraging achievement and progression."

For more details, click on the English pilot website link on the Edexcel homepage at [www.edexcel.org.uk/englishpilot](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/englishpilot)

## ... and here's just one of its supporters

**Flexibility and better results — two of the reasons why Alsop High School's head of department, Douglas Milner, and the current year 10s, are trying out Edexcel's new GCSE English Studies. Sally-Anne Tapia, key stage 4 English manager at Liverpool Comprehensive, speaks to Edexcel News about joining the pilot.**

With 16 staff, ours is probably the largest English department in the Northwest. We were attracted to the pilot because it was modular and, as the school already runs modular science and mathematics, the GCSE English Studies seemed the natural way to go.

This GCSE course fulfils all the key features we valued — functional literacy, ICT use and citizenship — and it, more importantly, links well with work carried out at both key stages 3 and 5.

This exciting opportunity will enable us to gain better results for our learners as everything isn't determined by one final exam. All of our year 10s, about 320 students, have been enrolled and we are confident of their success.

The single and double awards, and short-course certificates allow plenty of differentiation, which means that our pupils, regardless of ability, can get the most out of it. The flexibility of this programme allows the staff to interchange

the units, banking what they're good at, in order to gain the best possible GCSE result.

For some, instead of possibly receiving two lower GCSEs, they should be able to get one higher GCSE by choosing the units that best suits the individual and also gain a short course certificate.

We have had a lot of excellent support from Edexcel and the materials published so far have been of a very good standard.



## 'Unsung heroes' rewarded

Thirty-two exams officers have become the first in the country to gain professional recognition for their work. The group — 29 from England, one from Wales and two from Northern Ireland — received their BTEC professional certificate in the planning and administering of external examinations from Dr Ken Boston, QCA chief executive, at a London ceremony. The Edexcel level four qualification was launched as a national pilot in June 2003 after a small trial.

Speaking at the graduation celebration, Dr Boston said exams officers were the "unsung heroes" of the exam system. "QCA is behind Edexcel in driving support forward for this critically important qualification and in developing international best practice. We are moving away from a cottage industry and Edexcel has the solution in hand. This qualification is a win-win for learners, Edexcel, schools, colleges and



Jennifer Bywater, the first exams officer to qualify, receives flowers from Dr Boston

the training industry," said Dr Boston at the July event.

Edexcel managing director Jerry Jarvis said: "The scale of examinations in England has grown enormously over the past five years. It is one of the most complex roles in a school. I'm delighted at the response to the qualification. Exams officers have a crucial role and it is right that the knowledge they have been recognised professionally and I congratulate them all."

## Richard's pictures tell a story



One of Richard's award-winning pictures and, inset, Chancellor Gordon Brown makes the presentation

Skills learned on an Edexcel photography course have helped **Times** photographer Richard Pohle snap up two major press awards.

Richard, who finished his BTEC National Diploma in Design (Photography) in 1989, won Getty Images Royal Photographer of the Year and the Nikon Photo-Essay Award at the prestigious Picture Editors' Awards for his images of D-Day veterans and the Queen. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, presented the accolades.

"The course gave me a good grounding in every type of photography and also promoted the self-drive you need to succeed as a photographer," said Richard, 35, who studied at the City of Westminster College, formerly Paddington College. "The portfolio I did while on the course is still some of the best stuff I've shot."

To see more of Richard's award-winning pix, visit [www.pictureawards.net](http://www.pictureawards.net)

# New degrees on firm foundations

Centres will be able to gain validation approval for the first of Edexcel's BTEC Foundation Degrees this autumn through the National Validation Council (NVC).

The BTEC Foundation Degree programmes in computing, engineering and business will initially be available to centres after consideration of programme content by the NVC in September. Later in the autumn, the other seven BTEC sectors will become available after NVC validation.

The Foundation Degrees can also be accredited by the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC).

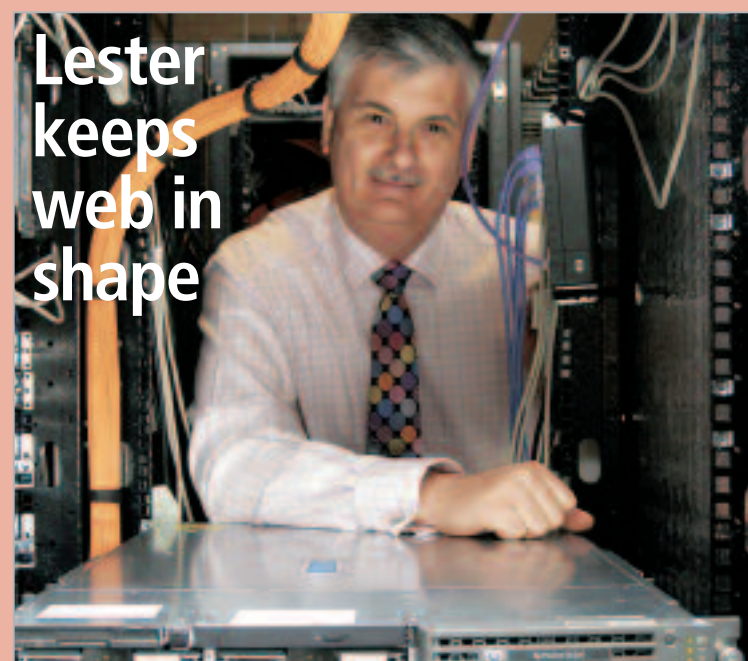
NVC is of particular interest to directly-funded FE colleges, employers, public bodies and other higher vocational training providers without their own degree-awarding powers.

Edexcel BTEC director Rick Firth said: "We look forward to working with UVAC and the NVC to offer our BTEC Foundation Degrees.

"This complements the full range of BTECs and allows full progression for learners studying vocational qualifications from 14-19 and also adult learners and those studying for work-based qualifications.

"There are 10 sectors and 85 titles covered and there is already considerable interest shown by colleges around the country for the NVC-validated BTEC Foundation Degree."

## Lester keeps web in shape



Mouse clicks, Edexcel webpage visits, phone calls — meet Lester Pulsford, the man responsible for making sure they all work smoothly. As the new IT director, Lester is master of the company's 2,500 pcs, 400 servers, 1,500 phone extensions and more than five miles of cabling across two Edexcel sites. One of his first priorities has been ensuring the smooth running of the

massive ePen onscreen marking system over the summer's increase in the numbers of scripts handled.

"To give an idea of what's involved, ePen and its supporting systems contain 64 terabytes of data, enough to fill more than 100,000 CDs." Lester, who previously worked at NatWest and TSYS, the UK's largest credit card processing company, joined Edexcel in March.

## At your service

A personalised and friendlier service from Edexcel is proving a hit with centres after a comprehensive revamp.

There are now two teams answering calls, emails, faxes and letters from centre staff — one for the 30 largest institutions and another for the next 500 biggest.

Andy Taylor, from customer support, said the targeted operation meant Edexcel support advisers were able to provide an enhanced service. "They're now able to recognise people and their names. It's much more personalised and friendlier because it's about speaking to, or sending an email to, somebody who feels they are on their side.

"We're finding centres are very happy with the changes. I visited one recently where they'd put on the wall photos from our presentation to get to know us better."

The teams also handle queries from Edexcel Online users and answer any issues referred to them from the new Ask Edexcel FAQ-style service.

## We're all EARs!

Do you or your students have concerns about results from the summer season? Remember Edexcel offers one of the fastest Enquiries About Results service in the country.

You can set up a re-marking request either by fax or through Edexcel Online and, on average, the reviewed result could be with you in less than 10 days.

Andy Taylor, customer support manager, said all EAR applications made through Edexcel Online would benefit from a 15 per cent reduction on the re-mark fee. For more details: [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

## Work on show

Creative work from Edexcel GCE and GCSE students is to be shown at a top London gallery.

Parents, students and teachers are being invited to the free exhibition at the County Hall Gallery, which will include evening events and workshops for teaching staff. The display will run from 7-12 November at the gallery, which is near the London Eye. For more information, email: [gcequalificationssupport@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:gcequalificationssupport@edexcel.org.uk)

## CD helpers

Two new Edexcel support CD-ROMs will help students and teachers prepare for this autumn's mock exams.

The **Edexcel Exam Tutor** features animated test answers and examiners' audio commentary to help with classroom and self-study GCSE exam preparation while **Exam Wizard** allows teachers to generate authentic GCSE and GCE mock exams in minutes from a searchable database of three years' of past papers. The resources have been developed by Edexcel Learning, a new unit set up to create products and services to support Edexcel qualifications.

CD-ROMs with a demonstration of Exam Wizard are being sent out to all centres this month. An Exam Tutor demonstration CD-ROM can be ordered from [www.edexcel.org.uk/examtutor](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/examtutor)

## Exam info rises to a higher level

A new level of exam feedback from Edexcel is giving centres the most detailed picture yet of their students' performance. The free Results Analysis service lets registered Edexcel Online users see what candidates achieved on each question of each of their papers for all examinations that have been marked onscreen.

As part of the service, exam papers, mark schemes and initial examiners' report were made available on results day for the first time. They are usually released later in the autumn.

Assessment design leader Emma Clark said this summer's launch of the service covered about 200 papers.

"There is a full list of the examinations involved on Edexcel Online. Being able to see this level of data will help centres enormously as they'll have a much clearer view of candidates' and classes' strengths and weaknesses," said Emma.

"They can also download the information to a spreadsheet to manipulate and sort as they like. This new tool builds on the success of our existing Question Level Feedback service.

"Results Analysis is particularly useful for class teachers and heads of department. If you'd like to have access to Edexcel Online, please contact your exams officer for a login," said Emma.

Posters outlining the service were sent out to all centres with last month's results pack and a survey will be carried out this month to obtain feedback on how it has been received.

## Now it's goodbye GNVQ, hello BTEC

Schools and colleges are embracing BTECs as their first-choice successor to the outgoing GNVQs with more than 1,500 centres launching their new programmes this month.

Although GNVQs are being withdrawn in stages, many institutions are choosing to switch to successor qualifications ahead of the final running of the courses.

Gill Jackson, 14-19 curriculum manager, said BTECs were proving more popular than GCSEs in Applied Subjects, the other alternative replacement qualification.

"The big growth has been in BTECs. The popular subjects are sport, performing arts, business, health and social care, and art and leisure," said Gill.

"I think the withdrawal of GNVQs has made a lot of schools rethink their curriculum planning and they're looking for the best vocational qualification to suit their students' learning style. We thought a lot of centres would wait to the final stage of the withdrawal but many are moving ahead now."

QCA announced the closure of the GNVQ qualification in November 2003. Programmes in the 14 subject areas will be completely phased out by January 2008.

## Staff trio on the air

Three members of Edexcel's staff were on hand to talk to callers to radio stations around the country over the summer. Alan Field, Karen Hughes and Lynn Nicholls reported that top of students' list was where to find information about what the data on their results' slip meant, how to access vocational qualifications and their choices for further study and information on how to improve their grades if they take wanted to resit modules.

# Students at centre of new science curriculum

Whether it's enjoying a roller-coaster ride, investigating space travel, or looking at smart materials — 360Science, Edexcel's new GCSE suite, aims to hook learners by developing a student-centred science curriculum with a "revolutionary" use of engaging and relevant material. The suite of nested qualifications includes GCSE Science, GCSE Additional Science, GCSEs in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Entry Level Science and the new BTEC First Certificate and Diploma in Applied Science.

Kath Skillern, qualification leader for science, said the radical redesign, carried out after QCA's updated subject criteria, had been developed with

Sheffield Hallam University and had involved consultations with LEA advisers, teachers and professional bodies.

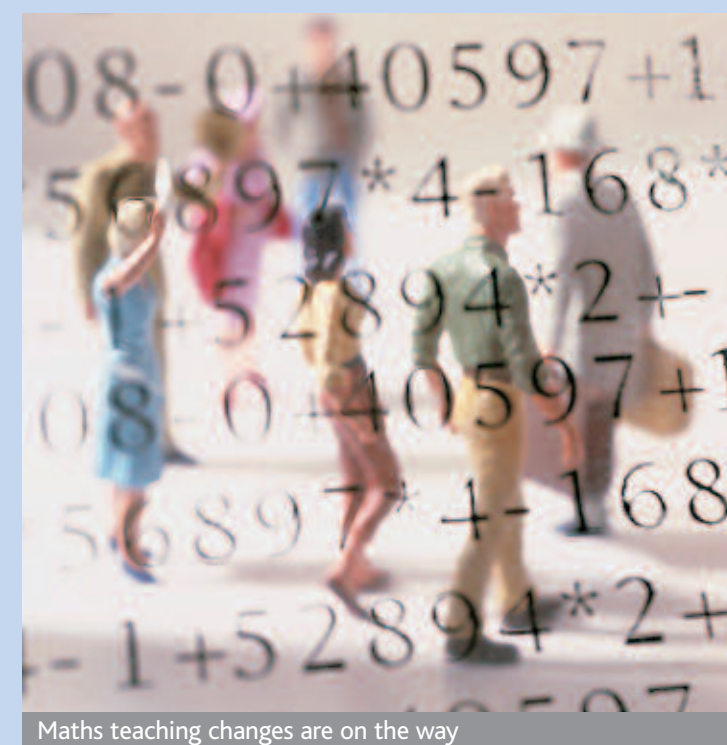
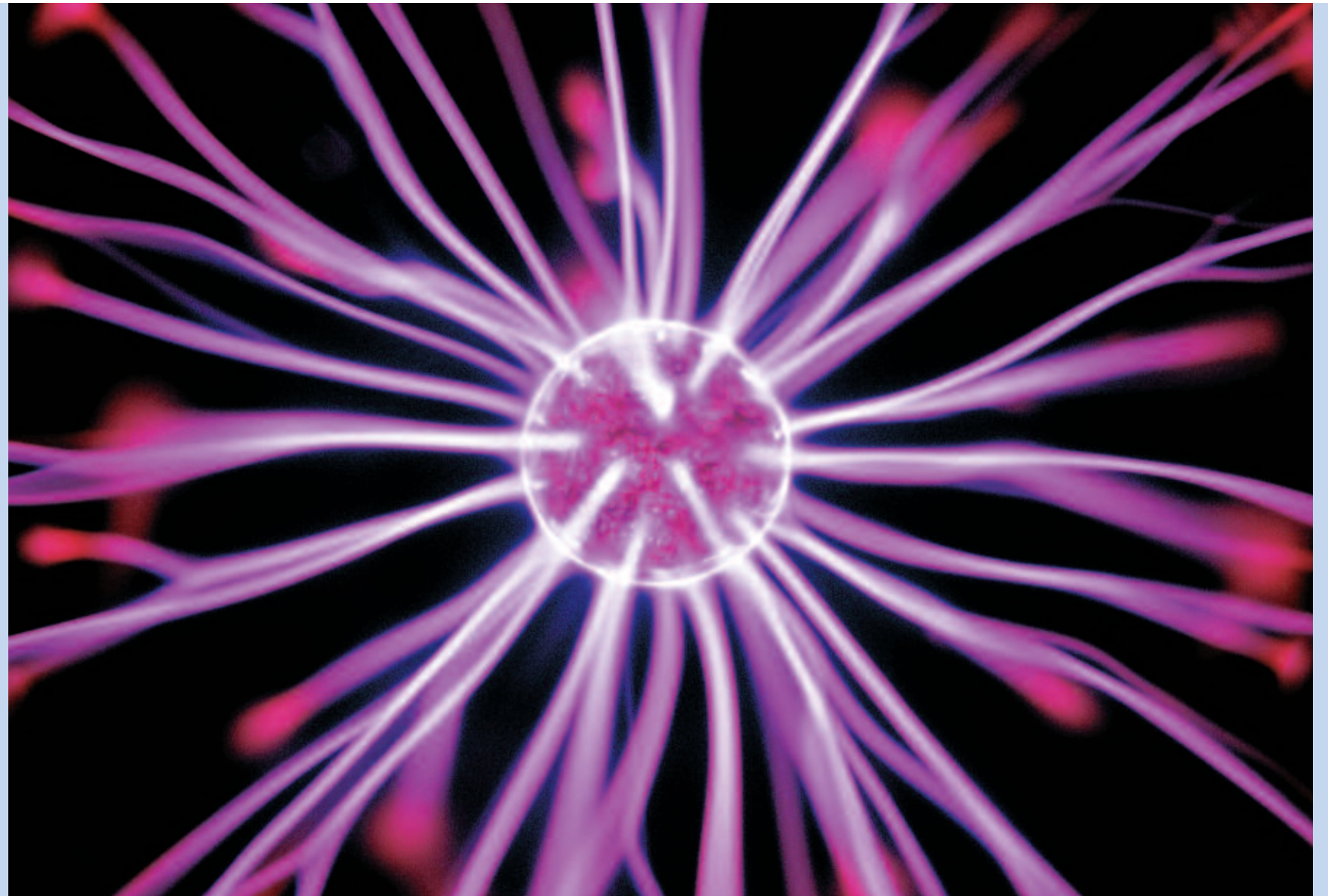
"Its student-centred focus caters to all abilities and is about showing how science works all around us rather than just a dry recall of facts, and that's really quite revolutionary," said Kath.

"It can be taught through three approaches, concept-led, applied context-driven or in a truly work-related way with the BTEC First Certificate and Diploma. We've completely revised the internal assessment and have produced a lot of tutor support material

"The specification empowers teachers to get the most from students and allows for straightforward curriculum planning. With ongoing assessment opportunities, teachers can choose when to assess students and allow them to 'cash-in' their best results from a number of assessments." One of the teachers who helped design the suite, David Chiang said its lively contexts, flexible assessment methods and opportunities for independent learning would make it a winner. "I've been able to give the school's and the teacher's perspective to see what would work in the classroom and what the students would find real and relevant," said

David, an advanced skills teacher at Great Cornard Upper School in Suffolk. "We've looked at areas like stem cell research, the big environmental issues, riding a roller-coaster, space exploration and what drug abuse does to the body." 360Science information, including specifications and resources, is being sent to centres this month and free introduction events will run from September to November with first teaching planned for next year. For more information, email [360science@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:360science@edexcel.org.uk) or phone our dedicated line on 0870 2409813.

360Science... aiming to show how science works all around us



Maths teaching changes are on the way

## Research projects add up to new way of looking at maths

Two major projects involving Edexcel are adding up to significant changes for the future of maths.

The research initiative being carried out in partnership with Kings College, London, is set to change the way the subject is taught in the long term while a trial of a two-tier GCSE is influencing the subject's exam structure in the near future.

Both projects stem from the government-commissioned report Making Mathematics Count by Professor Adrian Smith. Kate Halliwell said the work being carried out with Kings College was developing new pathways through the 14-19 mathematics curriculum for QCA to test.

"We've already had positive feedback from

QCA on our initial report and we're now revising our model in the light of a series of consultations with teachers and lecturers in June," said Kate, the project manager. "Using functional maths, the maths you use in everyday life, will be an important part of the model we're suggesting. There is also more emphasis on ICT and some onscreen assessment is envisaged."

The team's recommendations go back to QCA this month while preparation continues on a pilot programme to be run next year. In the short term, the results of an Edexcel trial with a two-tier maths GCSE taken this summer are being assessed independently by QCA this autumn.

Graham Cumming, qualification leader for

mathematics, said Foundation tier students would have the chance of obtaining a C grade for the first time while Higher tier students could benefit from a more effective progression to AS and A levels.

"A two-tier pilot GCSE Mathematics has been run on behalf of QCA by OCR since 2002. This summer has also seen a trial examination with different sorts of papers being run by Edexcel, AQA, OCR and WJEC," said Graham. "Across the four awarding bodies doing the trial, about 8,000 students sat the papers. The results are being evaluated and compared with those from OCR's pilot by the Institute of Education. Their report will go to the DfES and we expect a decision on the structure by the end of October."

## DiDA launches early

DiDA, Edexcel's revolutionary paperless ICT suite, has generated so much interest that some centres started teaching it "unofficially" before its national launch this month.

"This is fairly unusual," said ICT qualification leader Ann Weidmann, who receives about 100 emails a day from schools and colleges wanting information about the suite's three qualifications.

"We started with 45 official pilot centres and we picked up lots of unofficial ones during the year, centres that were excited about it and could see it as filling a gap for them."

As well as the UK centres' interest, Ann has been handling many inquiries from overseas and has also presented to a visiting Chinese delegation.

"This first year has gone extremely well and there are around 200,000 candidates starting this month, which is huge for this type of qualification," said Ann.

"It's very pleasing but not really surprising as DiDA has been designed to be fit for purpose for a 14-16 audience as the successor to the outgoing GNVQ in ICT. It really does press all the right buttons with its practical, real-world focus."

For the latest on DiDA and Edexcel's centre support, visit [www.edexcel.org.uk/dida](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/dida)

## Sounds of feverish activity are all around!

Despite increasing unease about the economic outlook, anxieties about national security and backbench unhappiness about some aspects of the Government's legislative programme, education remains a high priority for this Government. Nowhere are there any signs of a let-up in the volume of activity in this area for the rest of this year and beyond. A number of major reports are due,

another Education Bill is listed and fierce activity is being targeted at meeting national targets. Of particular interest to many are the developments in vocational education for 14–19-year-olds, the emergence of a National Employer Training Programme, the creation of a new national framework of achievement for adult vocational qualifications and continuing modernisation of the exam system.

14–19 learning has been identified as a major driver of activity. A 14–19 Advisory Group chaired by the Schools' Minister is already in place, a detailed implementation plan will be released in the autumn and the DfES has, in its own words, "reviewed and updated project management arrangements to include all the commitments in the 14–19 White Paper." All around, the air crackles with the

sounds of activity. From the development of local consortia to the creation of National Diploma Development Partnerships, 14–19 learning is beginning to take on a new momentum.

**Steve Besley**  
education policy  
manager  
Edexcel



## City's consortium gets off to a flying start

A unique BTEC consortium is helping to give Stoke-on-Trent pupils a better future by offering them more vocational choices and better progression options. In collaboration with Edexcel, the city council has been registered as a centre, which allows it to maximise the choice of all 14–16s by offering an entry level, level one and level two BTEC portfolio larger than any single school could provide.

Under the scheme, the children may go to other schools or colleges for parts of their course, teachers move between institutions to deliver programmes, all student progression is tracked through a database and a team of moderators and verifiers works city-wide.

Barbara Miller, the council's widening participation co-ordinator, said the consortium of 17 schools, two FE colleges and a training provider was part of the ongoing curriculum developments led by the City's 14–19 Collegiate Board partnership.

"We've had a very successful pilot year

with four of the 11 BTEC subject areas and from this month we're making them all available."

Barbara, who has set up the consortium with Edexcel's Melanie Holdcroft, added: "If we're going to make children's progress through education and training easier, it means taking away the barriers, like making the end of level 2 and the start of level 3 more easily negotiable.

"The consortium with its common systems, paperwork, knowledge and people is the first step towards this. We've chosen to do it with BTEC because it's such a powerful vehicle, a qualification that's well-known and recognised. We've had excellent support from Edexcel."

Melanie Holdcroft, a regional development manager, said the consortium was "unique, a first" and praised Barbara's "amazing achievement" in launching it.

"For us, it's a very positive collaboration that's ensuring vocational progression for youngsters across Stoke," she said.

## Linda's council work earns top accolade

Council officer Linda James has received a top accolade for her work in developing a BTEC qualification for councillors, the first of its kind in the country.

Linda, the councillor development officer for Bristol City Council, has been recognised in the Municipal Journal Awards for her work on the BTEC professional award in local governance. BBC world affairs editor John Simpson presented Linda with the Member Development Achievement of the Year award at a ceremony in London.

Linda, who has focused on councillor development for four years, said: "The demands of being a councillor in a modern authority mean that many have to give up or compromise their careers. Now they can achieve a professional qualification while serving and get accreditation for the skills they develop. It recognises the important job a councillor does."

The qualification covers four modules:



Bristol winners... Linda James, right, with colleague Jayne Gifford and Councillor Colin Smith

personal skills, leading policy; leading service improvement; community leadership and partnership working. Edexcel managing director Jerry Jarvis said: "Congratulations to Bristol — and to Linda. This is an exciting development and a welcome addition to Edexcel's portfolio of qualifications supporting local government. I'm delighted that the hard work of Linda and her team has been recognised with this award."

## Edexcel passes the key stage results test

Edexcel has successfully delivered more than four million National Curriculum Test scripts in Maths, English and Science.

The tests, at Key Stages 2 and 3, were taken by about 1.2 million pupils and the successful delivery of the marked scripts to England's state primary and secondary schools — plus a number of private and overseas schools — marks a significant achievement for Edexcel. This is the first year of a contract for the company to manage the recruitment,

training and supervision of more than 11,000 markers and the data collection of pupil and results information. The QCA is responsible for the test questions and mark scheme.

August 24 saw the return of the Key Stage 3 English test papers and results letters to well over 4,000 secondary schools, marking a step-change improvement in delivery compared with 2004, when Edexcel did not have the contract.

Programme director, Ziggy Liaquat, said:

"This has been a huge effort by everyone concerned — our markers, our staff and our partners at the QCA and NAA. "We have learned many lessons this year, but we have hit our deadlines and delivered."

"Planning is already well under way for 2006 and we are determined to maintain the high standard."

A number of innovations were introduced this year, including the establishment of Quality Assurance Centres (QACs) for Key Stage 3 English,

following serious concerns about delivery and marking in 2004. Activity at the QACs included further checking, remarking and borderlining of scripts to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Edexcel is hopeful that on-screen marking — used successfully to mark three million GCE and GCSE scripts this year — will be introduced to the Key Stage Tests next year. A trial is currently under way, with a decision awaited by the QCA and DfES.

## BTEC apprenticeships bring big boost for BT

Apprenticeships with Edexcel BTECs at their heart are helping BT to "inject new lifeblood into the workforce" with a steady supply of the engineers and technicians it needs.

"We've compared them with other qualifications and we're still happy with Edexcel's BTECs. They tie in nicely with everything we do," said BT's Mark Biffin, one of a group of managers that facilitate the development of apprenticeship in the company.

"We're increasing the numbers of apprentices we're taking on this year — more than 500 new starts, although not all in telecoms.

Apprenticeships provide employees with a very good foundation, which benefits both them and the business. They inject new lifeblood into the workforce.

"They really work for us in terms of value for money, increasing productivity, career advancement and progression.

"We have a number of people who move on to higher education and progress to senior technical roles and management positions."



The programmes are delivered by Accenture HR Services and consist of key skills qualifications, NVQ and a relevant BTEC technical certificate.

Kieron Mullan, who heads the Accenture apprenticeship team, said: "BT employees on advanced apprenticeship programmes study telecoms, IT user or IT practitioner BTECs awards, depending on their roles, which Accenture has managed on behalf of BT for the last four years. Our strong partnership has realised excellent results."

The telecoms apprenticeship structure was drawn up by e-skills UK, the sector skills council. David Willett, the council's skills development manager for telecoms, said:

"We've been working with both Accenture and BT to ensure that our apprenticeship frameworks contain the right qualifications to enable employers and providers to deliver the right skills at the right time for the benefit of the business."

## ... and an award for BAe

BTEC-powered advanced apprenticeships used by BAe Systems have helped win a prestigious training award for the company. The business was named Large Employer of the Year in recognition of its commitment to boosting productivity through apprenticeships at the Learning and Skills Council's 2005

National Apprenticeship Awards in June. John Male, head of learning and development, aerospace systems, operations, said: "We have 975 apprenticeships running at the moment and Edexcel qualifications underpin more than 90 per cent of them. Without doubt, Edexcel qualifications provide the standard we require."



Chris Cooper, Chief Examiner

advancing learning, changing lives

### What a result – thank you!

I want to say a big thank you to every Edexcel examiner, marker and moderator who worked so hard this summer to ensure that every student got the right grade, on time.

Edexcel this year marked more than five million scripts – three million onscreen using ePen – and over four and a half million National Curriculum Tests.

We could not have done this without you and I thank you.

**Jerry Jarvis**  
Managing Director

[www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

A PEARSON COMPANY

## Teachers given helping hand with ethnic study

Resources to help teachers bring this year's Black History Month into primary and secondary schools are being produced by Edexcel's parent company, Pearson Education, in collaboration with Penguin Author Tours.

The schools' pack includes an illustrated timeline showing black figures that have helped shape UK history, and connected booklists, which profiles titles written by ethnic minority authors or has a theme around African, Caribbean and Asian cultures.

Free lesson and assembly plans can be downloaded from <http://diversity.pearson.com/blackhistorymonth>, the website set up to support the October celebration.

Visitors to the site will also be able to find out about author tours taking place throughout the month.

## Governors' certificates re-registered

Updated versions of two BTECs that support school governors are being re-registered this autumn.

The advanced certificate for governors and the BTEC professional diploma (previously the higher certificate) for chairs of governing bodies have been successfully run by Essex County Council, both for its own governors and for others around the country, since 1999.

Tania Rogers, governor services officer, said more than 200 people had completed the original awards. "We've updated them in line with the latest legislation changes affecting governors and we're waiting to hear back from Edexcel to see if they've been accepted. They are superb qualifications and are the only way we can really reward governors, who are unpaid, for the work they do."

For more details, visit [www.essexcc.gov.uk/governors](http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/governors)

## First-aiders add to their skills

Defibrillator-trained first-aiders are now on hand to help safeguard the health of employees and visitors at Edexcel's London headquarters.

The new level of protection against life-threatening health emergencies is provided through 12 members of Edexcel staff who have been trained by the London Ambulance Service, on top of their conventional first-aid instruction from the British Red Cross.

Assistant facilities manager Justin Stone, who organised the instruction sessions, said a £2,000 defibrillator had been bought for the reception at One90 High Holborn.

"Having employees defibrillator-trained is something we thought would be a good idea because of the numbers of people in the building. We have around 700 staff and around 300 visitors every day on top of that at busy times in our London office," said Justin.

Edexcel runs and attends a large number of events every year. Our events programme gives educationalists the opportunity to hear about Edexcel qualifications, innovations and services. For details visit [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

forthcoming events

#### November 2005

7-11 Edexcel Art and Design Exhibition, County Hall Gallery, London  
 14-16 ACTAN (speaker, exhibitor)  
 15-17 Association of Colleges Annual Conference (speaker, sponsor, exhibitor)  
 17 Design and Technology with ICT Conference (exhibitor)  
 23 Nurturing Relationships Customer Conference — Malaysia  
 23-25 Specialists School Conference (speaker, exhibitor)  
 24-25 UVAC Annual Conference (sponsor, exhibitor)  
 29-30 North West Education Technology Show (speaker, exhibitor)

#### January 2006

5-7 ASE Conference (exhibitor)  
 February 2006  
 9-10 NET Education Technology Show (exhibitor)

If you are coming to one of these events, please visit us — we look forward to seeing you there. If you would like further information on any of these events, please contact our marketing events team on 020 7190 5047/5048/5049

If you are coming to one of these events, please visit us — we look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like further information on any of these events, please contact us on 020 7190 5048 or email [karla.nessbach@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:karla.nessbach@edexcel.org.uk)

Edexcel runs a series of events and training throughout the country, throughout the year. For details visit [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk)

#### YOUR VIEWS

We welcome your views. Please write to:

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 The Editor, Edexcel News,  
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 London WC1V 7BH

For information on any of our qualifications please see our website [www.edexcel.org.uk](http://www.edexcel.org.uk), email [enquiries@edexcel.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@edexcel.org.uk) or telephone 0870 240 9800.

# Healthy support on way for NHS staff

NHS support staff are soon to get a healthy boost to their training prospects. A new BTEC has been designed to recognise their skills and knowledge as workplace tutors.

The level 2 BTEC Award in Supporting Learning in the Workplace will prepare "role model" employees to help the on-the-job teaching, learning and assessment of colleagues as part of their daily routine.

The three-unit qualification, which has been developed through a partnership between the NHS University (NHSU), Newcastle College and Edexcel, has already completed one pilot and starts two more this month.

The programme, officially launched earlier this year, is awaiting QCA accreditation before it can be introduced across the NHS and to other public sector employers.

Chris Jude, head of widening participation in the NHSU, said the award fitted well with the government's drive for workplace development as well as with the NHS training framework.

"It's about recognising the learning that's already taking place when experienced staff train new employees. The programme will help them to teach and support their colleagues properly as work-based tutors," said Chris.

"Edexcel has been brilliant. Having had the initial discussions, the case for the qualification went through in about a week. I've never encountered anything happening so fast in education."

The award will be delivered in the first



ABOVE: Jared Fox, non-executive director of the NHSU, cuts the ribbon at the launch. LEFT: Gaye Hutchinson



instance by Newcastle College. Gaye Hutchinson, the college's director of corporate development, said regional and national NHS employers were already showing interest. "We're in discussion with a number of employers and, although the

certificate is primarily aimed at the NHS, we're looking at taking it into other public sectors and into the private sector," she said.

Edexcel regional manager Hilary Armstead said: "It was originally NHSU

teaching material and the college had the vision to see its potential. We've initially developed it as a customised qualification for them and, at the same time, have worked to get it on the NQF so it can become a national qualification available to all our centres."

Sue Parr, development manager said: "We expect to hear news of the programme's accreditation this month." For more details: 0870 240 9800 or <http://enquiries.edexcel.org.uk> For centres interested in the customised qualification, please email [helen.leppan@ncl-coll.ac.uk](mailto:helen.leppan@ncl-coll.ac.uk) or call Newcastle College on 0191 284 9953.

## BTEC Career is the path of Choice

Entertainment and communications provider HomeChoice has plugged into the BTEC Career Path to help motivate and develop its contact centre supervisors.

The business has a catchment area for its service covering 2.4 million homes across London and Stevenage.

"We currently have nine people following the stage three team leader course and they're enjoying it immensely," said Shani Foad, the HomeChoice trainer responsible for arranging the workshop sessions with Edexcel's BTEC Career Path partner, Qualifi.

The BTEC Career Path for Contact Centres uses learning materials developed and tailored to the industry by Qualifi with students being awarded a BTEC certificate when they complete one of its four stages.

"Our telesales and customer care contact centres in Stevenage are very important to us. We wanted a recognisable and transferable qualification that would help our employees with both personal development and motivation," said Shani

"We've had good support from Jason

Goodyear at Qualifi. He's been very responsive to our desire to make the material more bespoke to us.

"When the programme is complete, we'll undertake an evaluation and will meet Qualifi to determine whether we can introduce another stage of the qualification."

James Cowlin, BTEC Career Path development manager, said: "HomeChoice will be one of the companies featured on our recently launched BTEC Career Path website."

For more details, visit [www.bteccareerpath.com](http://www.bteccareerpath.com) and [www.homechoice.co.uk](http://www.homechoice.co.uk)