

Our ref: GF/Con10/1

June 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Schools and FE colleges

Action by recipient
Response required
√ Note and pass on
None — update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications Update — Construction

The contents of this update, which provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Construction Courses at all levels, should be passed to members of staff responsible for the subject.

Clare West — Qualifications Officer, Construction

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Qualifications Officer for Construction, Clare West. Clare is taking over from Roz Walker, who will be departing with our best wishes on maternity leave at the end of June. Clare's contact details can be found at the end of this update.

General issues

Construction Assessment Panel

The next time the Panel meets is 3 November 2010. If you have any questions for the Panel, please get in touch with us by the end of October 2010.

Construction Skills for Work

We will be holding a support network during session 2010/11. This is an excellent opportunity to view best practice and chat with colleagues who have experience in delivering the Courses. Information will be sent to centres in due course.

A new Unit in Stonemasonry is being developed for the Intermediate 1 Course and will be available for delivery from session 2011/12. Recent evidence has indicated that there is a serious shortage of skilled tradespeople for the repair and maintenance of historic buildings. These shortages could escalate and this emphasises the need for such skills to be passed on to future generations.

SchoolBuild 2010 competition

Sector Skills Council ConstructionSkills recently held a competition based around the Intermediate 1 Construction Crafts Course at Edinburgh's Telford College's Forth campus. Teams of school pupils from across the country competed in Brickwork, Carpentry and Joinery and Painting and Decorating categories, supported by their partner further education college. It was a very well organised event with a high standard of work produced.

The winners in each category were:

Brickwork

- 1 Angus Aitchison and Billy Hiddleston from Dumfries Academy, supported by teacher Brian Mills and Derek Wells from Dumfries and Galloway College
- 2 Lewis Anderson and William Johnson from Hawick High School supported by Robert Borthwick from Borders College
- 3 Marc Reid and Samantha Thomson from Prestwick Academy, supported by John Murray and Patricia Murray from Ayr College

Carpentry and Joinery

- 1 Liam Campbell and Norman Murray from the Nicolson Institute, supported by Donald MacIver from Lews Castle College
- 2 Paul Blake and Stacey Robertson from Gordons School Huntly, supported by Jim Gray from Banff and Buchan College
- 3 Shannon Henderson and Joe Smith from Anderson High School, supported by Anthony McLeod from Shetland College

Painting and Decorating

- 1 Bobbie Mills and Aaron Murphy from Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, supported by Frank Shields from Clydebank College
- 2 David Irvine and Jordan Wilson from Buckhaven High School, supported by teacher Steven Kane and Colin Scott from Adam Smith College
- 3 Clive Pinder and Derek Santini from Eastbank Academy, supported by Calum Henshaw from John Wheatley College

Congratulations to all who took part.

Low uptake policy

The Fabrication and Welding (Higher) Course falls into the low uptake category, but will be retained in the NQ catalogue as it meets one or more of the criteria for retention. It may be reconsidered in line with the policy at a later date if it remains in the low uptake category.

If you would like more information on the low uptake policy or the reason the Course falls within it, please contact Linda Murray at linda.murray@sqa.org.uk or on 0845 213 5568.

Curriculum for Excellence

New Qualification Progress Reports

Progress Reports summarise the findings and conclusions of SQA's research and engagement, and provide advice and guidance for the development of qualifications in the curriculum areas. The reports also highlight the key issues affecting qualifications.

The first of our reports are now available for seven of the eight curriculum areas: expressive arts, health and wellbeing, languages, mathematics, sciences, social studies and technologies. A Progress Report for literacy and numeracy is also available. Work on the report for religious and moral education is continuing and this will be published in July.

To view the Progress Reports, please visit <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42139.html>. A feedback facility is available on the website.

The Progress Reports will inform the development of the *Curriculum Area Overview* and *Suites of Courses* for each curriculum area, which will be available on the website in July. Our Qualifications Design Teams (QDTs) will then take the recommendations forward into the design of qualifications within individual subjects such as French, Physics or History.

Subject Working Groups

Subject Working Groups (SWGs) to help us develop the next generation of National Qualifications will be established from summer 2010 to carry out discrete pieces of work, for example, developing the rationale and Course summary, Unit specification or Unit support pack for a particular subject area.

If you are interested in helping us with this work, please visit <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/34644.html> and take a few minutes to read the information then complete and submit the 'Registration of Interest' form.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or any of the NQ Construction areas, please contact either Clare West (clare.west@sqa.org.uk/0845 213 5489) or myself using the contact details above.

Yours faithfully



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager
NQ Construction