

## UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS – July 2006

### Background

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This document updates the previous summary of developments and specifically relates to:

- The *Oracle Academy* programme within Scottish schools and colleges
- Credit transfer arrangements between SQA and Oracle
- Professional Development Awards
- Advanced Higher Information Systems

### Oracle Academy

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Since 2004 a total of 38 centres / teachers have participated in the *Oracle Academy* programme. These centres are:

Boroughmuir HS	Central College of Commerce
Fife College	Lauder College
Dumfries High School	Telford College
Firhill High School	Arbroath Academy
Lauder College	Eastwood School
Kircudbright Academy	Ayr College
James Watt College	St Kentigerns School
Motherwell College x 2	Wallace Hall School x 2
Stirling HS	Lockerbie Academy
Clydebank College	Lenzie Academy
Duncanrig High School x 2	Currie High School
Adam Smith College	St Andrews School
Perth College	Langholm Academy x 3
Reid Kerr College x 2	Peebles High School
The Royal High School	
Stow College x 2	
Anniesland College x 2	

Staff from all centres completed 9 weeks on-line training followed by a six day course held in UCLA, California). The value of this training is £75,000 per person, which includes the provision of a hosted database and associated curriculum for each participating centre.

The Oracle training is eligible as CPD for teachers (100 hours).

## Credit transfer

The existing credit transfer arrangements are summarised in the table below<sup>1</sup> and refers to the first course in the Oracle Academy portfolio – **Introduction to Computer Science and Business**.

Oracle	SQA		
	Ref. No.	Unit title	Qualification title
Database Design & Programming	DM4K 12	Relational Database Systems	Higher Information System
Data Modelling & Relational Database Design <b>plus</b> SQL Programming	DH3D 35 (2 credits) <b>Plus</b> DH3J 34 (1 credit)	Relational Database Systems  SQL: Introduction	HNC Computing <sup>2</sup>
Data Modelling & Relational Database Design <b>plus</b> SQL Programming	DG0G 35 (2 credits) <b>Plus</b> DG03 34 (1 credits)	Database Design & Implementation  Programming in SQL	HNC Computer Networking <sup>2</sup>

Any candidate who passes the named Oracle unit(s) can gain certification for the corresponding SQA unit(s).<sup>3</sup>

**Can you please make sure you have registered with your SQA Coordinator that your pupils are doing the Relational Database Systems unit DM4K12.**

**You will then have to inform your SQA coordinator that they have passed the unit when they have completed the Oracle Academy course so that they get the recognition on their SQA Certificates.**

If you have further questions do not hesitate to contact Wendy Reith ([wendy.reith@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:wendy.reith@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk)) or Derek Middleton ([derek.middleton@sqa.org.uk](mailto:derek.middleton@sqa.org.uk))

## Teaching the Oracle Academy Curriculum towards Advanced Higher Information Systems

In 2004-05 we agreed to explore the possibility of devising a hybrid curriculum to allow students to study a **single** syllabus that would encompass both Oracle's *Introduction to Computer Science and Business* and SQA's *Advanced Higher Information Systems* course.

Wendy Reith, Royal High School was appointed in 2006 to take this forward. Students can study Introduction to Computer Science and Business, Database Design & Programming using one of three formats, this allows flexibility within educational establishments and fully incorporates SQA qualifications.

1. Introduction to Computer Science and Business, Database Design & Programming, with candidates being awarded credits using the credit transfer matrix.
2. Introduction to Computer Science and Business, Database Design & Programming and additional study to cover three units of the Advanced Higher Information Studies.
3. Introduction to Computer Science and Business, Database Design & Programming and additional study for full presentation for Advanced Higher Information Systems.

<sup>1</sup> Each Oracle unit is a super-set of the SQA unit and the credit transfer is one-way (Oracle -> SQA) only.

<sup>5</sup> Higher Information Systems consists of 3 units of which this is one.

<sup>6</sup> The presenting centre has to make sure that the candidates are registered for this unit.

<sup>6</sup> HNC Computing and HNC Networking each consist of 12 units of which these are two.

There is no formal application for credit transfer; the normal evidence requirements are waived on production of proof that the candidate possesses the equivalent qualification.

## **Professional Development Awards**

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The HNC/D Computing award has recently been validated. The revised award contains a number of vendor qualifications including one linked to Oracle: *Advanced Certificate in Database Programming*. This award corresponds to years 1 and 2 of the *Oracle Academy* programme. Students will also be eligible to sit the *Oracle Certified Associate* examinations.

## **DIVA**

Focusing on the growing industry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and digital media and launched under the Digital media and ICT Vendor Alliance (DIVA) name, the programme has taken over a year to develop and will be rolled out over the next three years to all Scottish schools and colleges to help put Scotland at the forefront of the digital economy.

The DIVA programme plans include:

- Development of new awards in ICT and digital media and expansion of existing awards.
- Inclusion of new learner support materials from industry into all levels of ICT and digital media education.
- Professional development opportunities for Scottish teachers and lecturers to train in the latest technologies and courses.
- Development of learning pathways for new career opportunities in ICT and digital media industries, in line with the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF).

Oracle was selected as one of six industry partners, based on the company's broad-based and specialist contributions to ICT and digital media education and training, and the DIVA agreement will build on the company's successful Academy scheme which has already helped 13 Scottish schools provide new learning opportunities and develop their IT teaching abilities.

## **Future Developments 2006/2007**

Oracle Academy will be offering the following courses in Scotland from August 2006. These will be available to schools, FE Colleges and Universities and will be as follows :-

1. Introduction to Computer Science and Business – Database design and programming with SQL and Database programming with PLSQL.
2. Advanced Computer Science and Business
3. Enterprise Business Applications and Processes.