

3 May 2012

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To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges
Cc: LEA Contacts, SQA Business Development Managers

Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Music Update May 2012

Please pass this to the member of staff responsible for Music.

This is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Music and contains information about the wide range of Music and Music related Courses and Units available now.

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Please pass on this information to your Music teaching staff and Music instrumental staff. If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter with us, please contact Emma Bratchell (contact details above) or myself on 0345 213 6811 (new number since November 2011) or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
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1. Launch of the new Expressive Arts Bacculaureate

SQA has launched a new Expressive Arts Bacculaureate and this will be available for the first time in session 2012/2013 and is now one of four awards in this group:

- ◆ Science (since 2009) and Languages (since 2009)
- ◆ Expressive Arts (from August 2012) and Social Sciences (from August 2012)

The Scottish Bacculaureates have been designed to provide challenging and rewarding experiences for students in S5 and S6 in particular and aim to motivate learners and raise the status and value of S6. The awards aim to provide a bridge between school and higher education and employment and develop generic skills for learning, life and work. Each of the Bacculaureates is based on a coherent group of subjects at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the addition of the Interdisciplinary Project, which offers added breadth and value.

The Expressive Arts Bacculaureate Course requirements are:

Interdisciplinary Project Unit	Advanced Higher level	SCQF level 7
Two eligible Courses	Advanced Higher level	SCQF level 7
One eligible Course	Higher level	SCQF level 6

One of the above Courses must be English (or ESOL or Gaidhlig) or Mathematics (or Applied Mathematics) and this may be at Higher or Advanced Higher level.

Candidates may choose two core Courses, or one core Course and one broadening Course from the following lists:

Core Courses	Broadening Courses
Art and Design *	Graphic Communication *
Dance Practice	Home Economics: Fashion and Textile Technology
Drama *	Media Studies *
Music: Performing *	Physical Education *
Music: Technology *	Product Design
Photography	

* currently available at Advanced Higher level

The Interdisciplinary Project component is an Advanced Higher Unit (SCQF level 7) and can be offered on a free-standing basis. This Unit is graded A, B or C and attracts UCAS tariff points – 65 for A, 55 for B, 45 for C. The Interdisciplinary Project Unit is a process-based project which is internally assessed in centres and externally verified by SQA.

The Expressive Arts Bacculaureate is an exciting new addition to the Music and Expressive Arts group of qualifications and for more information please see www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab > select 'Browse NQ Subjects' > select 'Bacculaureates' from the left-hand menu).

2. Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (C276 11)

The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has been available since August 2011 and we have been very encouraged by the level of interest in this new Course and the number of centres which have come forward for SQA Approval to deliver the Course this year or in subsequent years.

This Course is aimed at school pupils in S3/S4 and above and college students. The Creative Industries Course has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), offering opportunities for inter-disciplinary learning, cross cutting initiatives and school/college partnership working. The Creative Industries Course can be delivered in a wide variety of creative contexts and we continue to support centres which are delivering or planning to deliver the Course and/or Units.

A great strength of the Creative Industries Skills for Work Course is the number of possible and potential contexts for delivery, either within an individual subject area or in a cross cutting/interdisciplinary setting. For example, we know of centres who are delivering the Creative Industries Course in the context of the following areas: creative fashion, creating a radio programme, photography exhibition, community drama production, dance production, producing a music CD, producing a school year book.

Here's a summary of the Creative Industries Course:

- ◆ This new Course has been designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which may include the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Music Business, Photography, Sound Production, Technical Theatre
- ◆ Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical skills-based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; a focus of these Courses is the development of employability skills and other transferable skills
- ◆ The Creative Industries Course comprises 4 x 40 hours Units at SCQF level 5 with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building
- ◆ The 4 Units of the Course are:
 - Creative Industries: An Introduction (FH60 11)
 - Creative Industries: Skills Development (FH61 11)
 - Creative Industries: The Creative Process (FH62 11)
 - Creative Industries: Creative Project (FH63 11)

For full information see www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab > select 'Skills for Work' from the right-hand column > select 'Creative Industries').

3. National Progression Awards

Questions and Answers

What is a National Progression Award (NPA)?

An NPA is a small, flexible qualification with a specific subject focus and is made up of a group of SQA National Qualifications (NQ) Units.

Who can deliver National Progression Awards?

NPAs can be delivered by schools, colleges or by school/college partnerships.

Are these NPAs part of the new Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) qualifications?

No. The NPAs in Music, Music Business and Sound Production are available now and have been available since August 2010. The NPAs respond to and endorse the aims and rationale of CfE and the new qualifications which are still in the development phase and will be available in future years.

Which National Progression Awards are available in Music, Music, Business and Sound Production?

The titles and SQA codes for these new NPAs are listed below:

- ◆ NPA in Music Performing (G9L6 46)
- ◆ NPA in Music Business (G9KN 46)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Live (G9L5 46)
- ◆ NPA in Sound Production: Recording (G9L4 46)

All four of the NPAs listed above comprise 3 Unit credits. This means that the notional delivery time is 3 x 40 hours - 120 hours - which could fit in well with school timetables and college programmes. In addition, all four of the NPAs have optional Units which provide scope for personalisation and choice. The NPAs are auto-approved for centres to deliver.

What level are the NPAs at?

All four NPAs are at SCQF level 6, which is Higher level. This doesn't mean that they are replacements for or instead of other existing qualifications at Higher level, eg Higher Music – they are alternative pathways in the subject area.

Who can do an NPA?

Again, the keyword here is flexibility: school or college students; adult learners; those interested in employment in a particular area or those already in employment seeking additional CPD in a specific area. National Progression Awards provide a platform which will allow progression to further study or potential employment.

Why do an NPA in Music, Music Business or Sound Production?

- ◆ To gain additional knowledge and skills
- ◆ To specialise in particular areas, eg Music Performing, Music Business, Live Sound Production
- ◆ To integrate with existing qualifications, eg as part of a two-year route with Higher Music; as a transition from Intermediate level to Higher level; as an alternative to or in addition to Advanced Higher Music
- ◆ To formalise existing experiences and situations, eg involvement in music ensembles, bands, orchestras, music technical support
- ◆ To promote engagement in interdisciplinary/cross curricular learning

Do you have to complete an NPA in one year?

No. There can be a number of ways to undertake this, remembering that any Unit within an NPA can also be delivered on a free-standing or stand-alone basis. For example, an NPA could be part of a two-year programme as NPAs are flexible in terms of completion date.

How is an NPA assessed?

The Units of an NPA, in common with all NQ Units, are internally assessed in centres which then send Unit results to SQA for processing. Centres decide on Unit completion dates, carry out the assessments and retain candidate evidence.

What support is there for schools and colleges considering delivering an NPA in Music?

Start by downloading the Arrangements Document from the SQA website; then access the Unit Specification for each Unit in the National Progression Award. These can be downloaded from www.sqa.org.uk using the *NQ Unit Search* facility. A number of Units have accompanying Assessment Support Packs and these are available on the SQA Secure website under *NQGA Subjects, Performing Arts*.

Where do we find the general information about this? We are interested in the range of Units and NPAs for the future.

- ◆ See www.sqa.org.uk
- ◆ Hover over the 'Qualifications' tab
- ◆ Click on 'NCs and NPAs (NQGA)' under 'Other Qualifications'
- ◆ Click on 'Browse NC and NPA Subjects'
- ◆ Select 'Performing Arts' from the list