

5 October 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and FE Colleges

cc: HMle
LEA Contacts
SQA Business Development Managers

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None - update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications – Dance Update 2010

Please pass this letter to the member of staff responsible for Dance. This letter is an update on new developments and opportunities in Dance in 2010/2011 and contains important information for the start of session 2011/2012.

SQA Website www.sqa.org.uk

The SQA website has been re-designed. The wealth of support, guidance and advice which exists for the delivery of National Qualifications in Dance is still there and has been extended further, but the route to the information is different. See section 1 of this letter for a guide to help you become accustomed to the new look website, navigate your way around and access information on: Arrangements, External Assessment reports, NAB materials, Update letters and much more. The 2010 Principal Assessor's report (the External Assessment report) will be available soon.

Higher Dance Practice Understanding Standards Event

See section 2 of this letter for information about an update event which is planned for January 2011 and is available to teachers and lecturers.

New Development in NQ Dance – National Progression Award

Section 3 of this letter contains full details of an exciting new development in provision in Dance at SCQF level 5. This new National Progression Award (NPA) will be available for next session – from August 2011. Over the years, a number of teachers and organisations have approached SQA about the need for further provision in Dance at SCQF level 5 and this new development aims to meet that need.

Creative Industries Skills for Work Course

Information about this new development is contained in Section 4 of this letter.

If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter, please contact Emma Bratchell (contact details above) or myself on 0131 561 6811 or e-mail mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
National Qualifications
Performing Arts

Section 1

How to navigate SQA website – how to find subject specific information

Image 1 – SQA home page

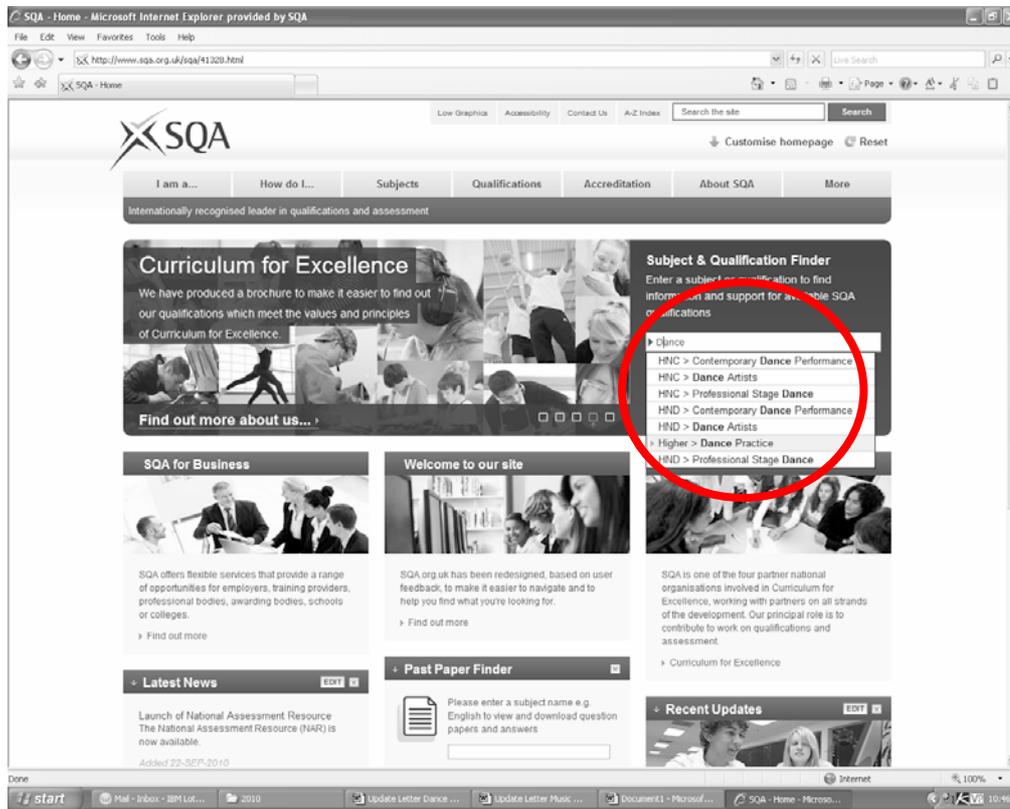
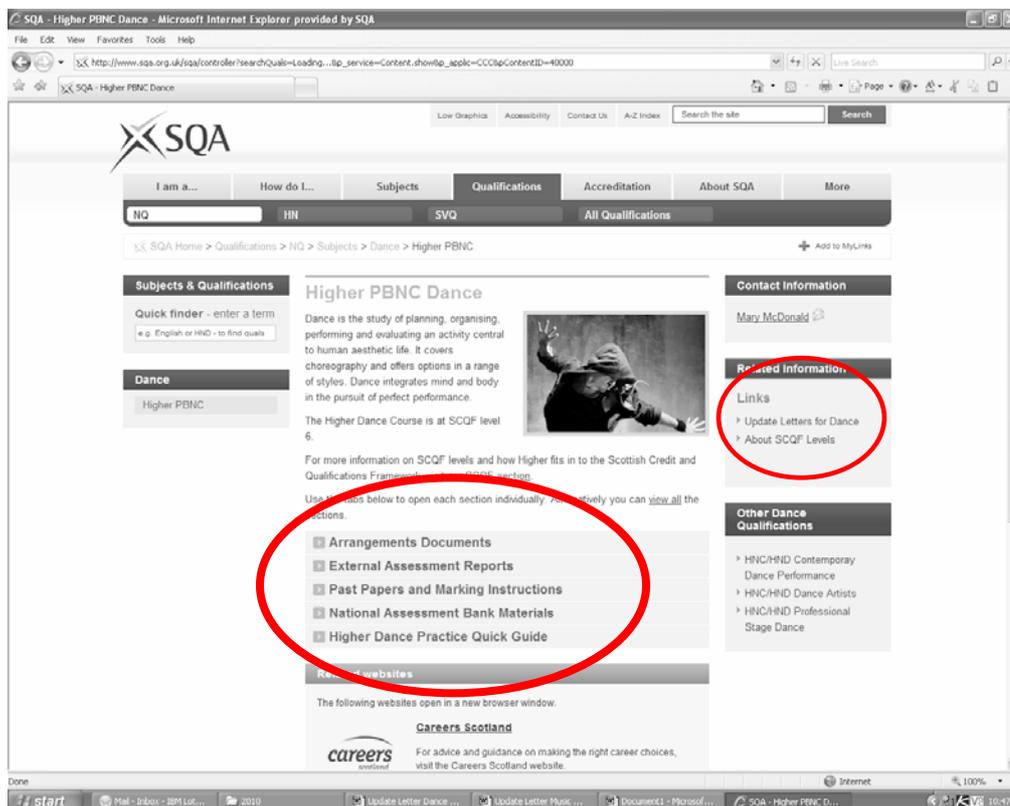


Image 2 – Higher Dance home page



Section 2
Higher Dance Practice Understanding Standards Event
28 January 2011

This event is dedicated to the promotion of understanding and applying assessment standards in the external components of the Higher Dance Practice Course: Planning, Development, Evaluating.

Date	Friday 28 January 2011
Venue	Edinburgh
Time	All day event
Who	Available to all teachers and lecturers who deliver Higher Dance Practice or who are considering introducing Higher Dance Practice in their centres.

This event will be led by experienced SQA Visiting Assessors and there will be discussion on the rationale and mechanics of assessment and opportunities to see and mark up candidates' performances. For the sessions on planning and evaluating, candidates' work will be available and detailed assessment rationale will be provided.

In addition, all delegates will receive a very detailed pack for all the Course areas covered and will be able to take this back to their centres to share with staff and use for future reference.

There is no charge for this event; SQA will provide the training, the pack and coffee and lunch on the day. However, centres would be liable for any travel, subsistence and cover costs which may be incurred.

Invitations will be issued to all SQA centres in November with details of how to book a place on the event.

Section 3

New Qualification in Dance

National Progression Award at SCQF level 5

Questions and Answers

What is a National Progression Award (NPA)?

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

Who can deliver National Progression Awards?

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

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

No. Although NPAs respond to and endorse the four capacities of CfE the new qualifications for the future are being developed from 2010-2014 and will be available after that time. The new NPA in Dance will be launched in the spring of 2011, ready for delivery in schools and colleges from August 2011.

What is the new NPA in Dance about?

The new NPA in Dance will underpin and mirror, to some extent, the current Higher Dance Practice qualification. The NPA will have 3 Unit credits which means that notional delivery time is 3 x 40 hours – 120 hours – which could fit in well with school timetables and college programmes. In addition, the new NPA in Dance has optional Units which will provide great scope for personalisation and choice. See table below:

Mandatory Unit	
Dance: Choreography	1 credit
Optional Units – choose two from four	
Dance: Alternative	1 credit
Dance: Classical	1 credit
Dance: Contemporary	1 credit
Dance: Jazz	1 credit

The above Units are revisions of the current free-standing Intermediate 2 Units.

What level is the NPA at?

The new NPA in Dance is at SCQF level 5, which is Intermediate 2. This doesn't mean that it is a replacement for or instead of any other existing qualifications at Intermediate 2 level – this is a new, alternative pathway 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 an area of Dance 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 Dance?

There are a number of answers here, including:

- ◆ to gain knowledge and skills
- ◆ to specialise in a particular optional area, eg Classical, Contemporary, Jazz
- ◆ to integrate with existing qualifications, eg as part of a 2 year route with Higher Dance Practice; as a transition from Intermediate level to Higher level; as an alternative to Higher Dance Practice where this is appropriate for a student
- ◆ to formalise existing experiences and situations eg, involvement in dance productions or shows; community dance projects

Do you have to complete an NPA in one year?

No. There can be a number of ways to undertake this, remembering also that any Unit within an NPA can also be delivered on a free-standing basis. For example, an NPA could be part of a two year programme – 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 themselves decide on Unit completion dates, carry out assessment and retain candidate evidence.

What support will there be there for centres considering delivering an NPA in Dance?

By spring 2011 SQA will make the following available:

- ◆ Arrangements document
- ◆ Unit Specifications
- ◆ Assessment Support Packs

We will contact all centres again in January 2011 with an update on the progress of this new development – the National Progression Award in Dance at SCQF level 5.

Section 4
New Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5)
Available August 2011

Skills for Work Courses encourage young people to become familiar with the world of work by offering practical based programmes of study which are linked to particular careers; these Courses also develop broader employability and other transferable skills. Skills for Work Courses are already available in a number of diverse sectors and the **Creative Industries Skills for Work Course** is an exciting new addition to this group of qualifications offered by SQA.

The Creative Industries Course is currently being developed and will be launched in the spring of 2011. This new Course is being designed to provide an introduction to the Creative Industries which includes the following sectors: Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre.

The primary target group for this Course would be school pupils in S3 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 will comprise 4 x 40 hour Units with an emphasis on integrated practical activity and skills building, knowledge and understanding and employability and transferable skills. The 4 Units of the Course are:

- ◆ Creative Industries: An Introduction (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Creative Industries: Skills Development (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Creative Industries: The Creative Process (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ Creative Industries: Creative Project (SCQF level 5)

These Units are ideally suited to a wide range of creative contexts including, eg: a musical production, an art exhibition/display, production of school yearbook, production of a music CD, a drama or dance production, an animated short film, a website or blog, a fashion show, a community project.