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

National Qualifications - Music Update October 2012

Please pass this to the member staff responsible for Music.

This is an update on current National Qualifications (NQ) in Music and contains important information for session 2012-2013 and gives details about new opportunities in Music and Music related Courses and Units.

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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 or email mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
Humanities, Arts and Business

1. 2012-2013 Music External Assessment Timetable and Year Planner

February 2013 – March 2013	<p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing exams) starts on 11 February 2013 for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period ends on 22 March 2013.</p>
April 2013 – May 2013	<p>23 April 2013 is the SQA Uplift date for Music X233 – Performing with Technology Folios (all levels). These folios are marked by SQA.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period (Performing exams) starts on 29 April 2013 for Advanced Higher Music.</p> <p>The Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music ends on 17 May 2013.</p> <p><u>Tuesday 7 May 2013 (afternoon)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Intermediate 1 Music◆ Intermediate 2 Music <p><u>Friday 10 May 2013 (morning)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Standard Grade Music (all levels) <p><u>Friday 10 May 2013 (afternoon)</u></p> <p>Question Paper Examinations for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Higher Music◆ Advanced Higher Music

September 2012	2012 Marking Instructions published on www.sqa.org.uk
October 2012	2012 Internal Assessment (Senior Verifier) Reports published
November 2012	2012 External Assessment (Principal Assessor) Reports published
December 2012	Centres selected for Visiting Verification of the Music: Composing Unit DV45 (interim/incomplete evidence) are informed
January 2013	Visiting Verification of Music: Composing Unit takes place 2013 Visiting Examination preparation starts: <i>Instructions to Centres</i> document and Candidate Mark Sheets are issued to centres
February 2013	Visiting Assessors contact centres to arrange visits for Performing exams 2013 Visiting Examination period starts for Standard Grade, Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher Music
March 2013	Verification of Music Units – DV45 Composing (all levels) and DV41 13 Listening (Advanced Higher Commentary): 26 March uplift date for materials from centres selected for Verification. (Centres are informed in advance if they have been selected)
April 2013	Central Verification takes place in SQA and the selected centres receive confirmation that their assessment decisions are in line with national standards 23 April uplift date for Music X233 Performing with Technology folios (all levels)
May 2013	Visiting Verification of Standard Grade Inventing and Group Performing/2nd Solo Instrument takes place 2013 Visiting Examination period for Advanced Higher Music

2. Current Opportunities in Music and Creative Industries

Expressive Arts Baccalaureate – Available from August 2012

The Expressive Arts Baccalaureate is the most recent addition to the Music and Expressive Arts group of qualifications. The Scottish Baccalaureates have been designed to provide challenging and rewarding experiences for students in S6 in particular and aim to motivate learners and raise the value and status of S6. The Expressive Arts Baccalaureate is based on a coherent group of subjects at Higher and Advanced Higher level with the addition of the Interdisciplinary Project.

For more information please see www.sqa.org.uk , (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'Browse NQ Subjects', select 'Baccalaureates' (from the left-hand menu)). If your centre is planning to offer this qualification, please contact us to discuss ways in which SQA could support you.

Creative Industries Skills for Work Course (C276 11) – Available from August 2011

During the past year, there has been a high level of interest in this Course and its potential for school pupils and college students, particularly as centres consider creative possibilities for the Senior Phase. The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has the potential to endorse the broad aims and capacities of CfE and a great strength of the 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 more information please see www.sqa.org.uk, (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'Skills for Work' from the right-hand column, select 'Creative Industries').

To support centres which are offering or interested in offering the Creative Industries Course, SQA is holding a national Understanding Standards Event in November 2012. See Section 3 of this update for full details.

National Progression Awards (NPAs) – Available from August 2010

National Certificates (NCs) – Available from August 2009

National Progression Awards (NPAs) are small, flexible qualifications with a specific focus and are made up of groups of SQA National Qualifications (NQ) Units. NPAs can be delivered by schools, colleges or by school/college partnerships.

There are four NPAs at SCQF level 6: Music Performing, Music Business, Sound Production: Live, Sound Production: Recording. In addition, a number of specialist NPAs have been developed recently in the following areas: Music and Wellbeing (SCQF level 6), Contemporary Gaelic Song Writing and Production (SCQF level 5) and Creative Industries (SCQF level 4).

There are two National Certificates (NCs) at SCQF level 6: NC in Music and NC in Sound Production. Recently, two new NCs have been developed in the following areas: NC in Music (SCQF level 5) and NC in Creative Industries (SCQF level 5).

For more information please see www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'Qualifications' tab, select 'NCs and NPAs (NQGA)' in the 'Other Qualifications' column, then select 'Browse NC and NPA Subjects' from the left-hand menu).

3. National Event – Creative Industries (Skills for Work) Course Understanding Standards

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 aim to develop broader employability and other transferable skills.

The Creative Industries Course (SCQF level 5) has been available for the past year and this national Understanding Standards event is being held to help schools and colleges understand more about the Creative Industries Course, how and where it can be delivered and how SQA can support centres. The Course can be offered in and across numerous subject areas including Art and Design, Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Photography, Music, Sound Production, Technical Theatre and Production Arts.

Date	Saturday 24 November 2012
Time	All day CPD event (5 hours)
Cost	Free of charge
Venue	Stirling
Audience	Open to all teachers and lecturers who are delivering the Creative Industries Skills for Work Course, or who are interested in introducing the Creative Industries Course in their centre.

On 24 November, we will look at Course content and assessment and listen to a number of colleagues who delivered the Course last session. There will be group discussions to share ideas and good practice and we hope that the day will inspire colleagues to consider the potential and wide range of possibilities that the Creative Industries Course offers.

To date, we have had a very positive response for this event from colleagues in schools and colleges. However, please note that there are still places available. We would like to encourage as many teachers and lecturers as possible to sign up for the first event of its kind for Creative Industries. For more details about this event, please visit www.sqa.org.uk (hover over the 'About SQA' tab, select 'Events' from the right-hand column, see bottom of the page for info on Creative Industries event). To book a place on the event click on the link at the bottom of the page and then click on the 'Book Now' link on the next page. If you are using the Event Booking System for the first time you will have to register before you can book a place.