

Our Ref: LM/July2013Update

July 2013

To: SQA Co-ordinator

**For the attention of all staff responsible
for the delivery of the Personal Finance Award**

Action by Recipient
✓ Note and pass on

Contact: Linda Meikle at Glasgow
Direct Line: 0845 213 5466
Email: Linda.Meikle@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague

Personal Finance Award (GA1Y 44)

This letter contains information relating to the above group award which I hope you find useful.

The first SQA Events, since the launch of the Personal Finance Award, were held in the SQA's offices in Dalkeith and Glasgow in January 2013. Evaluations confirmed that these Network Events were well received with delegates appreciating the input from two practitioners in particular. The practitioners spoke about delivery of the award by both the Mathematics and the Business Education Departments within schools.

Qualification Support Team (QST)

A meeting of the QST was scheduled for June 2013. Unfortunately this meeting had to be cancelled as two of the members were changing job roles/schools and would no longer be involved in the delivery of Personal Finance.

SQA would like to invite Personal Finance Award practitioners to consider participating in the work of the QST which would meet once or possibly twice a year to discuss issues relating to the Award. SQA rely on practitioners to inform us of any issues with qualifications and to assist us in ensuring content, etc is current. Please email me if you are interested in being involved in this work by 30 September 2013. Alternatively, you can complete an Expression of Interest form which can be found on the subject web page - <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa//36556.html>.

SOLAR

The SOLAR Team continue to deliver the summative and formative assessments for this award through the SOLAR assessment system. Each year they update and edit question items and develop additional questions to add into the bank to maintain the quality of assessment provision. If you have any comments or queries about question items in either formative or summative delivery, then please contact solar@sqa.org.uk with full details. The web site location is www.sqa.solar.org.uk

Benchmarking of Qualifications

As you may be aware a new Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool (SPBT) is being developed to support Curriculum for Excellence and help raise overall standards and quality of attainment. It will replace the current Standard Tables and Charts (STACs) and capture a wider range of awards and qualifications. The Tool will go live in August 2014 which means that STACs are being produced for the last time this year. The Scottish Government is working with a number of partners to ensure the Tool meets the needs of all staff including teachers, school leaders, quality improvement officers and those involved in inspection.

The Tool (SPBT) is being designed to:

- **Be available to a wider group of users** in secondary schools including class teachers, those in special schools and those involved with school college partnerships
- **Support Curriculum for Excellence** by developing greater understanding of strengths and areas for improvement in the senior phase by using a wide range of evidence of performance.
- **Provide more information on educational outcomes** including post school destinations and attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- **Be one of a range of approaches** to performance evaluation and improvement. These include the Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN), Education Scotland inspection processes, local authority analyses and self-evaluation.

The Tool will recognise a wider range of qualifications at Course and Unit level, this will include SQA qualifications such as National Progression Awards and qualifications from other providers.

For a small number of qualifications, such as the **Personal Finance Award**, where SQA works in partnership with another body, we are working with the Scottish Government to ensure all relevant bodies are contacted and informed of data submission requirements for the Tool. We will work with our partners to ensure data requirements and appropriate authorised data processing are met.

More information is available on the project web page:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/theCurriculum/howisprogressassessed/qualifications/benchmarking/index.asp>

If you have any queries regarding the Senior Phase Benchmarking Project and how it is supporting wider awards, please contact the project team at: spbt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The Stewart Ivory Education Project

Centres may be aware of the work of the Stewart Ivory Education Project, in particular the Finance for Sixth Formers Project. Stewart Ivory's Financial Education Officers (FEOs) deliver face-to-face sessions on financial education to secondary schools throughout Scotland. Further information on this project can be found at www.stewartivory-financeforsixthformers.co.uk. The Scottish contact is Paul Heward – paul.heward@julart.co.uk.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Linda K Meikle

Linda Meikle
Qualifications Officer
Humanities, Arts and Business