



Core Skills for the Future — Bulletin

Issue 5 — Winter 2007/08

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Core Skills for the Future Bulletin.

This Bulletin will outline our progress in terms of stakeholder engagement and will summarise the progress of the refresh of the Core Skills Framework and associated qualifications. The Bulletin will also provide you with up to date information on other developments within the area of Core Skills.

We do hope you find the content both informative and interesting!

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Core Skills Qualification development

Progress to date



National Qualifications Core Skills Units progress

The engagement and development phase for the refreshed NQ Core Skills Units is now complete. The Units are now going through SQA's quality assurance processes ready for their launch in March 2008. The launch of the refreshed Units will also encompass the smaller Units in Communication and Numeracy at SCQF 2 and 3 and it is anticipated that all these Units will be ready for first candidate entry in August 2008.

The Units and support materials have a very different look from that of standard NQ Units. This has been illustrated throughout our engagement activities over the last year and stakeholders who were able to attend the engagement events have given us extremely positive feedback.

We will be providing guidance on the changes within the Units, this guidance will be posted on SQA Academy (www.sqaacademy.org.uk) at the end of March and will help centres adjust to the new style and demand of the Units.

If you have any questions around the National Qualifications Core Skills Units please contact gill.macfarlane-CSPT@sqa.org.uk

NQ Core Skills launches

SQA are holding two events to launch the refreshed National Qualification Core Skills Units, places are limited at these events and we would encourage centres to book places early to avoid disappointment. Materials will be available on the day to view, so it's really worth attending to ensure that you're ready for the introduction of the new Units.

SQA Academy will also play host to the refreshed Units on the launch date, so if you can't make it on the day, you will still be able to download the materials yourself. This will give you time to become familiar with them.

The events are being held in Glasgow and Edinburgh. To indicate initial interest please e-mail core.skills@sqa.org.uk. Invitations have been sent out to all centres who deliver Core Skills and we anticipate strong attendance on the day.

Launch dates

- ◆ Wednesday 12 March 2008 — Glasgow (AM)

◆ Friday 14 March 2008 — Edinburgh (AM)



Workplace Core Skills progress

The Workplace Core Skills Units are continuing to move forward to their anticipated accreditation date of August 2008. The Units and support packs, which retain the current Workplace Core Skill format, have been successfully moved through their period of engagement and are being finalised. SQA Accreditation have continued to engage with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Sector Skills Councils and other awarding bodies through attending various events (such as the SVQ Update meeting) to ensure that they are kept up to date with progress in this area. Feedback on the refreshed Workplace Core Skills confirms we are meeting the needs of employers through our refreshed Core Skills Framework.

If you have any questions relating to the Workplace Core Skills please contact amanda.gray@sqa.org.uk.

External Verifiers working to support Core Skills Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

As there are a number of changes to the format and content of the new National Qualification Core Skills Units, our Core Skills External Verifiers have written a 'what's changed' report for each of the five Core Skills. This document will identify possible CPD needs that deliverers may need to address prior to delivering the new Core Skills Units. These reports will be available at the launch events and also on SQA Academy in April. SQA will continue to support centres during the implementation phase, through bulletins and updates on SQA Academy.



SQA Academy — Core Skills

SQA Academy is a webspace, devised to allow stakeholders the opportunity to make comment on some of the current developments within SQA. Core Skills for the Future has its own area within SQA Academy which has, to date, allowed stakeholders to view the refreshed Core Skills Framework and the first two phases of Core Skills qualification development. Now that we are in the final phase of

qualification development it is important that you take part in the discussion and debate around the qualifications and give us your thoughts. To gain access to SQA Academy, follow the instructions below.



SQA Academy — Qualifications for the Future

The Qualifications for the Future virtual space at SQA Academy is a resource for colleagues from schools, colleges, training providers, the workplace and the community, as well as SQA staff. It provides information on developments and latest thinking about qualifications and assessment. The virtual space will provide DVD clips, online questionnaires, papers, think-pieces and letters, all of which will provide ideas about the future of qualifications and assessment.

Providing information is, however, only one purpose of this virtual space, albeit an important one. It also encourages self-reflection and professional debate through an online forum which colleagues are encouraged to use to reflect on current practice and their hopes and wishes for future qualifications.

SQA want you to join in our process of updating Core Skills qualifications, and are keen to engage with you in our Qualifications for the Future discussions too.

For further information on SQA Academy please contact John Allan — e-mail: john.allan@sqa.org.uk or tel: 0845 213 5545 — or to join SQA Academy, follow the instructions below.

To join SQA Academy

Open your web browser and navigate to www.sqaacademy.org.uk.

In order to use the SQA Academy you'll need to create an account. Instructions on how to do this are available from the link 'Creating an Account on the SQA Academy'. You will be asked for an 'enrolment key'. The 'enrolment key' for Core Skills for the Future is 'Framework'.

If you have any problems contact the SQA Academy team (e-mail: academy@sqa.org.uk).

So, what should you do now?

All centres who deliver National Qualifications Core Skills

Please book your places at the launch events as early as possible to avoid disappointment (contact: core.skills@sqa.org.uk).

For all centres who deliver Workplace Core Skills

As the Units are at the final stage of development, we are awaiting a date for accreditation of the new Units. We will inform all centres in the next bulletin, which will concentrate on the refreshed Workplace Core Skills Units.

Other Core Skills developments



Adult Literacies roadshow — Shetland

This was the final road show in the Linking Together programme, developed in partnership with colleagues from the Scottish Government (Learning Connections). The programme was designed to raise awareness of how a social practice approach to developing literacies learning can sit comfortably with accreditation through SQA Core Skill qualifications.

A group of tutors from both the college and CBL adult literacies, worked together to share their experiences of good practice within their sectors and to understand and recognise national levels of learner work.

This is an example of everyday literacy practice, common in Shetland for their Up Helly Aa festival. A real reading?



National Qualification Group Award conference, Dunfermline

The Core Skills team held a workshop at the SQA National Qualification Group Award Conference which was held on Friday 25 January 2008, at Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline. The workshop *How we can support, develop and share Core Skills and other transferable skills with learners?* showcased the materials SQA currently provide to support Core Skills across National Qualifications. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss the materials currently available and provide SQA with some meaningful feedback as to their usefulness. There was also a discussion around what the delegates considered were the Core and Essential Skills learners required to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society. The results are displayed below.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the delegates who attended on the day and hope that they enjoyed the experience.

Working with Others for Enterprise at St Thomas of Aquin's High School



St Thomas of Aquin's High School has put the spotlight on how an integrated approach to citizenship, enterprise and Core Skills is working well for some pupils in Edinburgh. The school has allocated one period per week to Enterprise on the S2 Curriculum. The aim is to promote enterprising skills and qualities as well as providing

pupils with the opportunity of organising a whole school enterprising activity, namely a two and a half day African Festival in May.

The main focus of the enterprising lessons are two fold. Firstly, to allow pupils the opportunity to research countries in Africa and deliver classroom presentations with the emphasis on physical or visual artefacts. Each group will work collaboratively and decide on the topics they wish to research. Secondly, these lessons allow structured time for pupils to organise meetings and discuss future arrangements required to organise the S2 African Festival. All information will be collated by pupils which will be used as evidence towards SQA accreditation in the Core Skill Working with Others.

For the S2 African Festival, Uganda has been chosen as a focus due to established links to this country via two members of staff. The African Festival will involve attendance by our S1 – S3 pupils. During the Festival cross curricular links will be encouraged, with each department running an African themed activity which will be displayed or shared with other pupils. In advance of the festival, all S2 pupils will manage the selection process so that mixed year groups are allocated prior to the event. S2 pupils will be producing i-movies and radio broadcasts to market the festival to specific target groups such as senior pupils and parents. Other S2 pupils will be responsible for inviting external guests and exhibitors such as African consulates, fair trade outlets, food outlets, associated primary schools and other interested parties.

Parents and friends of St Thomas' will be encouraged to witness the fruits of the S2 Enterprise class work in all its glory on the Thursday evening of the Festival.

Core Skills Bulletin — spring edition



The next Core Skills for the Future Bulletin will be issued in April 2008. We would be delighted to highlight the work you are doing in your centre around Core Skills delivery. If you would like your activities to be part of our Core Skills Bulletin, please contact [**gill.macfarlane-CSPT@sqa.org.uk**](mailto:gill.macfarlane-CSPT@sqa.org.uk).