

04 June 2012

To: All FE Colleges
Cc: SQA Business Development Managers

**HNC/HND Acting and Performance
HNC/HND Musical Theatre**

Please forward this to the member(s) of staff responsible for HN Acting and Performance and HN Musical Theatre.

**Review of HN Acting and Performance Units
Review of HN Musical Theatre Units**

Background

In September 2011 we informed you about plans to enter into a short period of HN qualifications review, to take place from October 2011 - April 2012. At that time we invited FE colleagues to contribute to this review period and we were very encouraged at the level of interest expressed. A Qualifications Support Team (QST) was formed and the membership of the QST reflected a wide range of expertise and experience and geographical spread of Scotland's Colleges.

The Work of the QST

From the outset there was clear consensus that both the HN Acting and Performance and HN Musical Theatre frameworks are robust and well-balanced in terms of their Mandatory and Optional sections. However, 6 years have passed since the inception of these qualifications and it was acknowledged that a number of areas needed to be updated or required review/revision as follows:

- ◆ clarify requirements and guidance and remove anomalies
- ◆ reduce potential duplication of assessment
- ◆ reflect current professional practice
- ◆ produce more assessment support to exemplify national standards

The Reviewed Units

The first phase of review work is now complete. Please see the table on the following page for details. This is a list of the Units which have been revised and summary details of the changes. These Units have been put into the new HN Unit template and are being re coded, ready for centres to use from August 2012 although the new Unit Specifications will be available on line before then.

Please note that the existing versions of these Units now go into a lapsing period and this means that they will still be available for two more years; centres may choose to continue with the older version of these Units for two more sessions (the end date for the older versions is 31/7/14).

Unit title	Existing Unit code	Summary of changes
Performance 2: Applying Skills for Musical Theatre	DP8V35 (no change)	Emphasis on use of observation checklists for annotation of script/score. Outcome 4 - 'extended response question paper' changed to evaluation report.
Acting 2: Applying Skills in Performance	DG3L 35 New code tbc	The content of Outcomes 2 & 3 have been revised, to enable the creation/exploration of two contrasting characters; one from text and a second from either devised, text-based or musical.
Voice 1: Developing Skills	DG4N 34 New code tbc	Vocal exercises have been removed from the knowledge and skills in Outcome 1. Sight reading has been removed from the knowledge and skills in Outcome 2.
Voice 2: Applying Skills in Performance	DG4R 35 New code tbc	The written voice theory assessment has been removed and replaced with consolidation and extension of individual vocal technique in Outcome 1. Practical methods of producing a range of accents has been added to the Knowledge and Skills list in Outcome 2. Assessment of Vocal warm up has been removed.
Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1 (new title to replace Vocal Techniques 1)	DP93 34 New code tbc	The concentration of this Unit is now to develop an anatomical understanding of the voice and to develop warm-up techniques. The self diagnostic and evaluative aspect of the unit remains. The emphasis should be on the spoken voice, however there is opportunity for integration with singing skills.

Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 2 (new title to replace Vocal Techniques 2)	DP8H 35 New code tbc	The voice theory assessment (phonetics) has been removed from Outcome 1. Practical methods of producing a range of accents has been added to the Knowledge and Skills list. An evaluative report in Outcome 4 replaces the original progress record.
Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 1	DP8X 34 New code tbc	The knowledge and skills list has been amended to allow broader analysis of appropriate singing techniques used in musical theatre. The anatomy and evaluative aspects have been removed and integrated into <i>Vocal Techniques for Musical Theatre 1</i> . This should allow additional time for individual lessons with candidates.
Singing Skills for Musical Theatre 2	DP8Y 35 New code tbc	The evaluative element has been removed to allow more time for practical exploration. References to Estill have been removed, but recommendation that appropriate singing techniques are employed as appropriate to the Musical Theatre industry. There is clarification of songs to be sung in harmony.
Singing Skills for the Actor 2	DG4C 35 New code tbc	The vocal warm up element in Outcome 1 has been replaced by of a range of exercises for consolidating and extending general and specific singing technique. For Outcomes 2 and 3, the requirement is now to prepare, rehearse and present 2 contrasting songs, one of which must be a solo song.

The Next Phase of Review Work

Review work will resume in September 2012 and we'll contact you early in the session with details of the new Unit Codes from phase 1 and plans for the next phase of work which will include the publication of new Assessment Exemplars and revision of the HN Musical Theatre Dance Units.

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

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager, Humanities, Arts and Business