



Diploma Talk

Edition 10

Welcome to this terms edition of Diploma Talk.

AQA-City & Guilds Diploma Results Above the National Average

Congratulations to all our centres who have put in the hard work to making the Diplomas a success and in helping their students achieve their Diploma results. Statistics show that AQA-City & Guilds Diploma students achieved higher scores than the national average. A full list of Diploma results are published on the **AQA website** for Foundation, Higher and Advanced Diplomas.

Our clear priority remains to meet the needs of Diploma learners by providing reassurance and support to them on their Diploma current courses.

Education Policy Changes

This year will be a significant time for shaping the future of education with the changes around Government policies.

A new phase of education and qualifications reform is promised as the Coalition Government begins to roll out its agenda for schools and colleges and develops its future policies.

A White Paper will be published this autumn alongside a new Education Bill, and further significant changes are anticipated as Ministers set out their plans.

We feel this is the right time to review our Diploma work, and discuss with you the future needs of learners and how these are best met.

During this time we will be contacting centres and maintaining a dialogue with centres going forward around the Diploma. This will include capturing your feedback and gaining further insights into the experience of colleagues who are delivering the Diploma.

If you would like to take part in shaping the future of qualifications and have your views heard, email us on **diplomafeedback@diplomainfo.org.uk**.

Updated Sports and Active Leisure specifications

A new updated version of the Sports and Active Leisure specifications are now available, with changes made to improve the clarity of the scope and content for teachers. These updated versions can be used from September 2010 are available online here:

www.diplomainfo.org.uk/SAL-PLS.asp

Student Handbook number changes

Please note that within the printed and online Student Handbooks there has been changes to the fax and telephone numbers, the new numbers for you to order copies and make enquiries are:

T: 0844 543 0033
F: 020 7294 2499

Diploma Support Events

Continuing our support to you, this year we are offering you events to help guide you through delivery. Events available include:

- **Introductory Events** - designed for anyone who is new to the Diplomas and would like to find out more
- **Preparing to Teach the Diplomas** - covering all aspects of implementation for delivery
- **Domain Assessor Training** - generic across all lines guiding you through the quality assurance process.
- **Projects** - Levels 1,2 and EPQ as well as CPD training
- **Sharing Good Practice networks** - run on an on demand basis giving you an opportunity to raise queries, share best practice and network with other practitioners.

We will also be exhibiting at the **6th National Conference on Delivering Diplomas** Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston University, Birmingham on 11th October 2010.

This event focuses on where the Diploma programme is under the coalition government and looks at how consortia across England are planning their Diploma delivery in this new environment.

Come and visit our stand and meet our support team.

For further information or to book a place please see our **events page** on the diplomainfo website.



Jack of all trades

Those teachers across consortia involved in the Diploma delivery are beginning to see the potential for new and exciting ways of engaging their learners.

Jack McNulty (SecEd's 2010 runner up award for Diploma teacher of the year) has created a unique teaching environment for learners, which we've documented in our case study for the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies. **Find out** what Jack has been up to and how he has worked at making the Diplomas a success.

Wheels of Glory

Level 2 learners at Chalfont Community College, Bucks are reaping the benefits that the AQA-City & Guilds Diploma in Creative and Media offers.

A brief was set by Creative Junction from the Create Compete Collaborate (CCC) programme for a project known as Gaming! which promotes disability in a positive light and is designed to inspire young people to become involved with the Paralympics. It was agreed that learners from Chalfont Community College must produce an online game for the Paralympics which had to include the story of its birthplace at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

A case study detailing their journey from the drawing board to the game launch is now available to **view online**.



Online Teaching Resource Zone

We continue to build up our support materials for you to use with your Diploma delivery. Some of the latest editions to the website include:

Schemes of Work

A complete list of Retail Business at all Levels

iSAMs

All Units for Level 1 Business, Administration and Finance except Unit 2 and all units for Level 2, except Unit 3.

Sport and Active Leisure Level 1 Unit 5, Level 2 Unit 7 and Level 3 Units 5 and 8.

To view all of the support and resources available to you visit our **Teaching Resource Zone**.

Welsh Baccaulaureate Principal Learning

The Welsh Baccaulaureate is available to 14 -19 year old learners in Wales. Principal Learning (PL) qualifications form one of the option elements within the Welsh Baccaulaureate Qualification. Principal Learning must be studied alongside the Project qualifications at the appropriate level and other appropriate qualifications.

View the Society, Health and Development and the Hair and Beauty Studies Principal Learning specifications on our **website**.

To find out more about the Welsh Baccaulaureate qualification go to <http://www.wbq.org.uk/>

New Creative and Media online resource

'Inside the Creative and Media Diploma' is an online resource available for students and teachers. It has many areas within the website for you to explore and use such as behind the scenes, creative insights, career pathways and explore the exhibitions. This website has been developed by the National Portrait Gallery in partnership with Museums Sheffield, Southampton Museum & Art Gallery, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery and Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens.

Find out more: <http://cmd.npg.org.uk/>

Diploma Gateway

The Department for Education released a newsletter in July which states that 'Ministers have decided not to hold any more Gateway exercises. There is considerable expertise now after four Gateways in local authorities, schools and colleges. So, **for starts from 2012 onwards**, there will be no requirement to obtain approval from the Department for Education before delivering new Diploma subjects. In addition, we are relaxing the requirement to offer the Diploma collaboratively through consortia'.

AQA-City & Guilds are still only accepting registrations from centres within consortia. We will update you on any further changes to registrations.

