

Digital Skills Newsletter - 25

Keep-in-Touch

Recognising the impact apprentices make

National Apprenticeship Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the positive impact apprentices make and shout about their achievements.

At City & Guilds we believe every apprentice making a positive impact is helping to build the future.

Throughout National Apprenticeship Week we are giving employers and training providers the

opportunity to nominate their apprentices for a #NAW22 City & Guilds Positive Personal or Team Impact award.

We will share their nominations in the form of an #apprenticeshipshoutout via social media and issue every apprentice a digital credential, that they can share with their networks to celebrate their achievements.

This year we will also be offering every nominated apprentice the chance to join an exclusive CPD event with leading industry experts focused on professional development.

You can nominate your apprentices for either a Personal Impact award or Team Impact award via the links below;

Nomination

- **personal impact:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KTVTy09n106NoplVWJ6pSytxnJS3fBJAlq5BQ1X8UYhUNUFYUDhUUjRESIRNRExKSINKVUM1SE04Mi4u>

Nomination

- **team impact:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KTVTy09n106NoplVWJ6pSytxnJS3fBJAlq5BQ1X8UYhUNVYwWVvaV0IDVUZWRzJaUDJUQ0EzTFZJSi4u>

Dispensation, Mitigations and Adaptations

Reminder of links and options available:

- ✓ **City & Guilds – allowed by Ofqual**
 - [Assessment arrangements for 2022 - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)
 - [Adaptations 2022 - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)
 - [End-point assessment - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)
 - ✓ Includes for declaring venue for assessment is safe where face-to-face activities required
- ✓ **NSAR – issued 15 December 2021**
 - [NSAR Consistency Monitoring Observation Guidance \(cityandguilds.com\)](#)
- ✓ **IfATE – extension to end of February 2022**

Synoptic Projects at home

Following conversations with NSAR, the Synoptic Project assessment dispensation - **Assessments taking place outside of usual venues** – looks set to continue for the foreseeable future (i.e., into 2022). The NSAR document is available on our website under the Digital and IT qualifications area, on the Updates and webinars page - <http://bit.ly/CGDDigitalUpdate>.

Digital Marketer review update

In this Issue

Recognising apprentices
 Dispensations, mitigations, adaptations
 Digital Marketer review update
 VRQ reminder
 Digital skills / IT user
 Other news
 Funding and Policy Webinar
 Updates and webinars
 Note from David and Ken

If ATE are saying that the Trailblazer Group only need to submit the proposal for the revision and suggested changes by end of March. This means that no date has been agreed for the actual Standard or Assessment Plan submission, though the work on the draft of the Standard has been completed.

We are still waiting for the documentation to send out for consultation, so if you would like to be part of the process then please email David or Ken. You will need to send to at least one employer as they need to gain a wider employer viewpoint also.

VRQ qualification reminder

IT Professional qualifications - update

We are looking at a slight delay in publication, but our hope is still for the following:

- 7540 Level 2 and 3 / 7630 Level 4
 - Full qualifications updated - February 2022 (with handbooks in March 2022)
 - Unit routes - March/April 2022
- 3668-02 – Publication - 2022 (slip to early March)
- 3668-03 – Publication - 2022 (slip to early March)
- 3667-03 – continue and will not be updated going forward

Digital Skills/IT Users – using products/units in industry sectors

Traineeships / AEB

As you will be aware, if you have a Traineeship or AEB contract, that there is now a requirement to deliver digital skills as part of their programmes (not all AEB). While for Entry Level and Level 1 the Government is only funding EDSQs, some learners may need Level 2 and the IT User (iTQ) provides a more flexible option.

Today, most jobs involve interaction with digital technology

Some may be simple like the use of email, where others may require more comprehensive skills in the use of presentation software or more in-depth use of spreadsheets.

- What can you provide colleagues?
 - Have learners from other in-fill into current programmes or create bespoke programmes that have projects relevant to a specific sector?
- Do you want something to spark ideas or provide suggestions?
 - A look at how specific application units may be used or how some of the more generic units could help gather evidence from within other sectors existing qualifications?

Please let David or Ken know if this would be of use.

Create programmes with meaning

For many people wading through a training providers prospectus of course, qualification titles being used as the title for a programme can be a turn off. Employers looking for something specific for their employees, do not want to have to look behind the “curtain” to see what a qualification may or may not cover – they want to see something that will tell them what it is and then will read the description. Please, stop using qualification titles in your prospectus.

You need to think more about the audience you are trying to attract, provide titles that are descriptive of what can be achieved and the content descriptions to fit around those aims. For example:

- Data analysis and report for business

- it will include spreadsheets, word processing and presentation software – possibly email and using the internet.
- Basic skills and knowledge development does not change but using portfolios of evidence for assessment rather than our generic assignments can allow you to get learners to work on projects with meaning for them and can be set in a business context.
- Keeping in touch with friends and family using digital technology
 - Using email, the internet, mobile devices and collaborative technology provides a variety of communication options including links to social media

If you need guidance or want to discuss this further then email your City & Guilds business account manager, David or Ken to set up a meeting.

Level 3 Consultation (England) – Occupational-entry Technical Qualifications (OTQs)

IfATE and Ofqual are looking to plug some of the gaps at Level 3 not covered by T-Levels for the 16–19-year-olds and flexible programmes for the 19+ age range. Once again Digital is the first industry sector called on to do the work and the idea is to have products that would provide similar learning outcomes the Level 3 Apprenticeship Standards in this area.

We will need to submit our proposals to them by the end of March 2022 and will be basing our offer on units from within 7540-13 – adding in specific certification for those areas with limited Rules of Combination of units as appropriate – and 3668-03 for the Network Cabling area. However, while there is a rush to get our submission done, the actual first offer (date set by IfATE) will not be until September 2024.

Other news

Princes Royal Training Awards - reminder

The 2022 PRTA are now open for applications.

<https://twitter.com/CityGuildsGroup/status/1478679591346655234>

Honouring employers (including colleges and private training providers) who have created outstanding training and skills development programmes which have resulted in exceptional commercial benefits.

Free to enter the Awards are open to all UK employers who can show how investing in training has directly improved their people and organisational performance.

Training is at the core of every successful business. It allows you to recruit better staff, retain quality colleagues and future proof your talent pipeline.

It's the investment that offers a return time and time again.

Exams support service – Department for Education providing more funding

Dept for Education (DfE) has agreed to extend the exam support service to centres running exams and assessments in January, February and March 2022 that are not being run as part of the autumn series (that is, are not a resit opportunity for students who received a teacher assessed grade in summer 2021), for costs related to additional invigilators required as a result of staff absences. This offer may those struggling with additional costs in this area.

Qualifications eligible for this support are;

- VTQs and other general qualifications at level 1/2, level 2 and level 3, where students received a teacher assessed grade in summer 2021 and there is a scheduled assessment opportunity for the qualification in the spring 2022 series.
- All other VTQs scheduled in January, February and March 2022 - **these qualifications are eligible for extra invigilator costs required as a result of staff absence only**

Full Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsibility-for-autumn-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam-series/dfes-exam-support-service-autumn-exam-fees-sites-and-invigilators>

New funding alliance – Health & Social Care sector

A Funding Alliance has been created to connect Health & Social Care employees with FE colleges and ITPs for fully funded courses and qualifications. The alliance has been established by Edgeworks, a Manchester-based specialist provider, who are inviting employers within HSC, FE colleges and Independent Training Providers to join the alliance, which will be partially dedicated to winning bids that support recruitment, induction and in-work progression in HSC.

Full Article here - <https://www.fenews.co.uk/skills/edgeworks-the-leading-education-provider-to-the-health-social-care-sector-launches-first-of-its-kind-funding-alliance-programme/>

New funding alliance – Wave 3 for Bootcamps tender

ESFA have launched the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for wave 3 of the Skills Bootcamps, for delivery year 2022-23. The tender is intended to expand the geographical reach and skills offer of Skills Bootcamps.

The ITT has up to £150 million of funding available to deliver skills in digital, technical, construction and green skills, as well as for Skills Bootcamps that support learners to progress to accelerated apprenticeships.

Full Delivery of Wave 3 Bootcamps is due to start from 1 September 2022. Full guidance and detail on the lots, policy background and delivery requirements is available on the call for competition page: https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/6e5dce5a-c772-4e75-ab9c-d6bd5da0f878?_ga=2.4167856.1036779595.1643364028-1457750698.1641565660

Apprenticeships – Incentive for hiring

ESFA have updated the guidance for this incentive. The guidance flags the new deadline for employer applications for the incentive.

Employers can apply for a payment of £3,000 for new apprentices with an employment start date from 1 October 2021 to 31 January 2022.

The Updated guidance can be found - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/incentive-payments-for-hiring-a-new-apprentice#full-publication-update-history>

Department for Education campaign for Skills – goes live

DfE are implementing four major campaigns this week to encourage more learners to access the funding available to gain skills, upskill or re-skill. Possibly a response to the lack of take up for the Adult Level 3 offer, but the campaigns also address employers and young people.

1. **For young people aged 14-19**, 'Get the Jump' brings together all education and training choices for young people, including apprenticeships, traineeships and vocational education options, to assist with understanding their choices with new pages on the National Careers Service at - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>
2. **The Skills for Life campaign**, aims to support adults to develop their skills by bringing together Government backed skills and training opportunities in a new single campaign and website, - <https://skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/>

3. **Join the Skills Revolution**, aims to increase employers' awareness of Government training and employment schemes, to help skill up their workforce - <https://find-employer-schemes.education.gov.uk/>
4. **Further Education teacher recruitment** - Share Your Skills is a new campaign calling on skilled professionals to share expertise and train the next generation of workers in their field by teaching in further education, with a view to addressing the shortage of FE Lecturers and bring in new talent. Launched on 20 January - <https://www.teach-in-further-education.campaign.gov.uk/>

Funding and Policy update webinar

Hosted by Bryony Kingsland, Senior Funding and Policy lead, this **free** webinar is part of the regular termly funding and policy updates for England, which City & Guilds offer to keep our partners informed of developments in the FE and skills sector. A lot is going on in FE and Skills at the moment, with lots of future developments coming our way. Attending these webinars will help support providers and employers with understanding changes that affect workforce planning and curriculum and delivery strategy.

This session will cover;

- Apprenticeships Policy and Funding Update & Accountability Framework
- 16-19 Funding Changes for 2022-23
- Sub-contracting/Due Diligence Update
- Qualification reforms (L3) and the Post 16 Skills Bill
- T Level Funding
- Adult Skills

There will be time for questions and discussion at the end of the presentation

Wednesday, 9 March 2022
12.00 to 13.15pm.

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4402895778306654479?dm_i=1LRR,7Q6XG,5DQB9,VI28F,1

Funding checker - qualifications

We have not replicated the information presented at the webinar here. Please refer to the slide deck that accompanied the email with this newsletter.

Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page. <http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next Digital and IT Skills Keep-in-Touch webinars

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| 22 February 2022 (09.30 – 10.30) | https://bit.ly/CGDigitalKIT22Feb22 |
| 8 March 2022 (09.30 – 10.30) | https://bit.ly/CGDigitalKiT8Mar22 |
| 29 March 2022 (09.30 – 10.30) | https://bit.ly/CGDigitalKiT29Mar22 |

If you have any specific topics, you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

Ken Gaines ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com

OR

David Wackett david.wackett@cityandguilds.com