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SQA Update

1. SQA: Data input

Action for Head Teachers – Please check the accuracy of SQA codes in use

If you require further support please contact Joyce Rochford: joyce.rochford@edinburgh.gov.uk

Further to the email sent by John Stewart on 25 February to all SQA Co-ordinators. Please note the following information which was in the main text of the email:

“Further to my earlier e-mail, indicating that the new Reference File was in place, we have received several queries about its use. As indicated earlier, users cannot see it directly. The file contains amongst other things, the new codes form SQA for the Highers in the CfE environment, all at level 76. A later file, presumably next session, next file should include the codes for the next Advanced Highers, at level 77. We have copied out the codes which we believe are going to be used this session, for your convenience. **Please remember that it is the responsibility of the schools to check the accuracy of any codes you use.** These checks should be made against the SQA official lists”.

2. SQA: Data input

Action for Head Teachers – Please ensure that you have effective Quality Assurance mechanisms in place for the implementation of the new qualifications as we approach the deadline of 31 March 2014:

If you require further support please contact Joyce Rochford: joyce.rochford@edinburgh.gov.uk

Further to the email sent by John Stewart on 10 February to all SQA Co-ordinators. Please note the following information which was in the main text of the email:

“National levels 5 and 4: Many schools have raised questions on the best way to get the SEEMiS system to handle the details of pupils transferring from National 5 to National 4, particularly those who are starting out with a view to doing National 5, but subsequently change level to National 4. These pupils cannot be awarded a National 4 Course unless they have passed the Added Value unit from the National 4 Course, and the other units from National 5 are held to be equivalent to the rest of the National 4 Course. Every school must make its own decision as to whether ALL National 5 pupils should be entered automatically for the necessary units to give the position of getting a National 4 pass in that subject, or only enter those pupils who will or might need the National 4 qualification. There are two decisions to be made by the school or authority (ie not by SEEMiS)

- 1) How many of the National 5 pupils will be put in for the National 4 Added Value unit?
- 2) How much does the addition of this unit affect the teaching load?

If the school has decided to put all National 5 Pupils in for the Added Value unit, there are no problems: include the appropriate unit or units in the National 5 Course, or set up second courses in each subject containing only the unit or units required to give eligibility to achieve a National 4 Course”.

The remainder of the email covers the main technical points and your SQA co-ordinator should have a copy of this. Please note that a support session was also held for all SQA Co-ordinators and Curriculum DHTs. In addition Roddy Gillespie also attended the recent SQA Co-ordinators meeting in order to answer key questions from centres. If you have any remaining questions please submit these to Joyce Rochford.

SQA Continued

3. SQA: Results Services

Following your concerns raised about the recent SQA letter to candidates and the cost of the new Results Services, I have asked this item to be placed on the next ADES Agenda to enable us to provide you with local authority guidance on this issue. In addition, I will also raise SQA charges as a general item as requested.

2.1 and 5.3 Returns

2.1 and 5.3 Returns

Action: Please complete and return your 2.1 and 5.3 templates to your QIO by Friday 28 March.

A gentle reminder that the deadline date for the return of your 2.1 and 5.3 returns is Friday 28 March and a copy of the blank template is on page 54 & 55 of the Self-evaluation Toolkit which can be found on the Secondary Head Teacher's Blog: <http://tinyurl.com/EDCECQIT>

SEEMiS Action Group

SEEMiS

I am setting up a SEEMIS Action Group to help to identify and solve some of the SEEMIS issues and I would be grateful if 2 HTs, 2 DHTs and 2 Business Managers could be identified to help to take this work forward.

Key Dates for your diary



Senior Phase Bench-marking Tool

In preparation for the launch of the new Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool, there will be a conference on **Tuesday 29 April at Broughton High School**. Please note that this is an inter-authority event organised by the Scottish Government, we are the host authority and West and Midlothian will also join us. Each secondary school and local authority are invited to send **three** representatives to attend either a morning or afternoon session. Lunch will be provided for all attendees. This is an important opportunity to become familiar with the SPBT before it goes live and take part in a hands on session to find out what to expect in August.

Please note that the Scottish Government will be sending out invitations directly to local authorities and secondary schools within the next week via email.

Next Secondary Head Teacher CfE Session

The next CfE Secondary Head Teacher meeting will take place on **Wednesday 7th May at WHEC**. A copy of the final agenda will be circulated in due course once speakers have confirmed their availability.

