

**Welcome to the first OCN Eastern Region newsletter for schools.**

**With major 14-19 education reforms underway, we aim to explain and inform on a regular basis using real life examples and experiences.**

#### Contents:

- **FLT: the Foundation Learning Tier**
- **Qualifications for schools**
- **Step-UP in action : a case study**
- **FORVUS reporting**
- **Support and Training**

## Foundation Learning Tier

Schools should be working with Local Authority 14-19 strategy advisers to ensure their offer meets the requirements of the emerging reforms. The overarching focus is to provide a personalised curriculum for each and every learner at a level appropriate to that learner.

The Foundation Learning Tier is part of the 14-19 reform to improve skills and provide clear progression routes for learners working below level two. The government's published target is for 30% of college provision to be within the FLT in the coming academic year. From 2010 the FLT will be an entitlement in schools.

- \* Does your school have its plans in place?
- \* What will your curriculum look like in 2010?

If you would like to find out more about the Foundation Learning Tier and the implications for schools, we can help. OCN Eastern Region has a range of material that explains how to accredit learning that will meet the qualification requirements for FLT provision as part of the new Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF). This material has been useful in helping schools and colleges design KS4 engagement programmes; create a curriculum enrichment syllabus; and accredit extended schools activities. Sheringham High School's programme is described later in this newsletter' Black Belt Academy is designing a Martial Arts course specifically for KS4 underachieving pupils' and several 14-19 strategy groups are engaged in discussion with our Development Managers.

To request a meeting with one of our Development Managers please [email](#) or call 01206 873023.



## **including: Step-UP, Qualifications in Progression, Financial Literacy, Art and Design.**

All qualifications from OCN Eastern Region follow the credit-based model recently adopted by the OCA's Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). Small bite-sized units of learning can be built over time to achieve a full National Qualification.

No learning is 'lost' on the way; every unit completed by the pupil is recognised on their certificate, whether or not they achieve the final qualification in school. Units within the QCF can then build over time to a full qualification if the pupil continues learning after school.

Some qualifications such as Step Up, Art and Design and Financial Literacy carry a points tariff that can be included in the DCSF school achievement and attainment tables. Our qualifications include:

### **Step-UP**

The NOCN Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) qualifications are a flexible suite of qualifications aimed at 14 - 16 year olds who are working below level 2. These qualifications appear in the FLT Catalogue and so attract LSC / Local Authority funding. Step-UP can be used to deliver an alternative curriculum, provide the tools for a KS4 engagement programme and at all levels the qualifications attract points contributing towards the achievement and attainment tables.

The nesting of units within the three progression qualifications of Step-UP: Award, Certificate and Diploma, leads to the easy design of a personalised curriculum for each learner in a cohort and gives the opportunity to meet the needs of a wide range of learners. Once an Award has been achieved, for example, the pupil can build to a Certificate or Diploma utilising those same units. Units can also be achieved at different levels (a spiky profile) enabling the teaching of mixed-ability classes.

The suite of qualifications includes units covering:

- \* Personal development - e.g. Assertiveness and Decision Making, Using Teamwork Skills
- \* Vocational tasters - e.g. Construction, Business, Childcare
- \* Employability skills - e.g. Personal Career Planning, Work Based Placement

To see how it can work in practise please see the Sheringham High School case study below.

### **Qualifications in Progression**

The NOCN Qualifications in Progression are similar to Step-UP in structure and content but targeted at the 16-19 age range. A suite of over 650 units can be combined to offer a multitude of qualifications that can engage and enthuse 'hard-to-reach' pupils and pupils with LLDD, offer curriculum enrichment to sixth form students and provide an alternative curriculum in pupil referral units.

### **Financial Literacy Qualifications**

The National Strategy for Financial Capability vision of achievement:

"We share a vision of better informed, educated and more confident citizens, able to take greater responsibility for their financial affairs and play a more active role in the market for financial services." *The Financial Services Authority.*

As the UK's financial watchdog, the FSA leads the National Strategy for Financial Capability in partnership with the Government, financial services industry, voluntary sector and consumer and education groups.

The NOCN Award and Certificate in Financial Literacy support this strategy and are designed to help pupils develop personal finance knowledge and understanding so that they can make informed decisions based on their personal circumstances.

**Resources:** [Personal Finance Education Group](#) - Helping schools plan and teach financial capability.

Although OCN Eastern Region does not explicitly endorse any third party provider of support material and resources, we are happy to offer links to any that offer free resources for schools.

### **Art and Design**

The NOCN Awards in Art and Design carry performance points for pupils 14+. As with other NOCN qualifications, they are delivered in small units of learning building to a qualification at an appropriate level for the pupil. Qualifications can be tailored to meet the interests and expertise of the pupils.

For more information on these qualifications please contact OCN Eastern Region via [email](#) or on 01206 873023.

## **Step-UP in action: Sheringham High School**

Working with the OCN Eastern Region the school is offering



students the chance to swap the classroom for gardens and workshops and get their hands dirty whilst working towards a new nationally recognised qualification called NOCN Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP).

Growing organic fruit and vegetables, visiting farms and investigating issues concerning food production are all part of the year long horticulture course, while in the workshop students are building their own motor bike and learning how to service a car.

The courses offer an alternative approach to the traditional curriculum. Spending one day a week, the students are engaged and motivated to identify their individual strengths and interests. As well learning practical skills in gardening and mechanics, the 15 – 16 year olds are learning key life skills such as teamwork, leadership skills and time management.

The benefit of the Step UP qualifications for the school is that it provides the flexibility to use external partners, including local authority and voluntary organisations, with the relevant expertise to deliver the coursework. In Sheringham High School's case, they use Norfolk County Council's Holt Hall Field Studies Centre for the horticulture elements of the course.

To find out how you can implement Step-UP please contact us on 01206 873023 or via [email](#).

## Forvus Reporting

If you are an OCN Eastern Region Recognised Centre, you will be aware that a number of NOCN qualifications carry a points tariff that can be included in the DCSF school achievement and attainment tables. To ensure your learners' achievements are included in the totals for your school, NOCN has to report detailed statistics to Forvus by a certain date.

Please advise your exams coordinator colleagues of this key date and ensure that all completed Recommendations for the Award of Credit (RACs) are submitted by the deadline.

**Final date for Centre to submit RAC information  
Friday 26 June 2009**

The NOCN qualifications that attract performance points include Step Up, Art and Design and Financial Literacy. Please contact us if you have any queries.

## Support and training

In most local authorities, the 14-19 strategy group or the Connexions service is working to provide help and advice in implementing the new reforms. In Norfolk, for example, Connexions Norfolk is offering the NOCN IAG Level 2 Award as CPD for schools.

OCN Eastern Region also attends 14-19 strategy group briefings to give an up to date overview from the perspective of an awarding body. If you would like us to brief your school or consortium please contact OCN Eastern Region on 01206 873023 or via [email](#).

We have recently added a suite of CPD courses to our training offering. One course is specifically aimed at staff within schools who are new to, or have responsibility for, credit based learning. It provides an overview of assessment processes and quality assurance systems. On completion participants will understand: the principles of assessment for credit based learning, the requirements of a quality management system for credit based learning, and the key requirements of external assessment. For more information please contact our [training department](#).

## Feedback

If there are topics you would like to see covered in future issues, please let us know. You can email [newsletter@ocner.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ocner.org.uk) or click here. We are always interested to hear your thoughts and opinions. To ensure your continued receipt of this newsletter please add the domain ocner.org.uk to your safe senders list.

Registered in England Company No: 5502449

Charity Registration No: 1114282



The ***Diversity*** of Learning