



NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – North West FRIDAY 8th May 2015

Kendal College

There is a separate attendance list available.

1) Welcome and Introduction to the seminar

Steve McAloone, as acting chair, welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of NFEC. Graham Wilkinson, Principal, welcomed the seminar to Kendal and outlined the provision and developments ongoing at the College including a museum and a 14th century building run as a restaurant. There is provision for a new STEM centre with an animal sanctuary, medical, bio and forensic science. There is a regional training for dementia and Alzheimer's and a training hotel is now on the agenda. Introductions were then made around the room.

2) Current matters of concern

One college mentioned that they were having to make significant cuts in delivery hours for study programmes, for L3 540 GLH there may be attendance of 15 hours a week including GCSEs where only 10 hours would probably be engineering contact. It was agreed that it is tight across the board on core curriculum and discussions took place on looking at shuffling hours around, blended learning delivery, having a matrix by grouping subjects together to teach larger combined groups or not to allocate the same hours to each subject. Some colleges have raised the entry requirements for level 3 BTEC such as the requirement of achieving a level 2 PEO and level 1 and 2 tech certificates.

3) Qualifications/Awarding bodies

EAL - Mark Jones. New qualifications have been developed for inclusion onto the 14-16 2017 performance tables. There are electrical, plumbing and engineering routes available which are similar to current knowledge units, but assessments will be graded differently. They will be transferable into the apprenticeship frameworks. There will be practical and written assignments and on line tests. Grading will apply to the whole qualification and will need meaningful employer involvement with projects, master classes and guest lectures. There are 5 mandatory units on the level 2 and 6 units for the level 3. There are interactive on line resources and assessment. Only one resit will be allowed for an exam and the overall grade of P, M, D will be based on all exams, tests and practical work. There was a discussion on mapping of QCF, NCF and Trailblazer qualifications to cover the full time programmes. Any queries to Mark on mjones@eal.org.uk.

Pearson - Amanda Murphy

There has been work on BTEC Nationals, ready for first teaching 2016. There is a minimum 30 to 40% external assessment, which does not mean just exams but it could be IVA, pre-released case study material or open book tests. It is more likely to be based around the mandatory units.

Proposed sizes are:

- Award 360GLH and Sub Certificate 540GLH on the Applied General list.
- On the Technical list Certificate 720GLH and Diploma 1080GLH (which will be called National Diploma again)

Draft specifications should hopefully be available on the website from September.

Technical Baccalaureate, which includes a tech level qualification, extended project and L3 Maths AS/A level or Core Maths, has more funding available for this framework and will be on the published list and available in November 2015. The revised HNs have proposed first teaching in 2016. These will require a minimum level of English Language. Edexcel are looking for engagement with providers to help shape these. HN Global is a new digital community and on-line library for students and tutors. There will be networks coming up to share good practice. There is an extended certificate available for intermediate apprenticeships. Amanda can be contacted on amanda.murphy@pearson.com.

C&G – Darren Quinn

There is new 14-19 KS5 level 3 offer with 3 pathways for advanced technical engineering. The 360 GLH certificate has 6 mandatory units, the 540 GLH Foundation Diploma has 8 mandatory plus 1 optional and the 720 GLH Diploma has 10 mandatory plus 2 optional. They should meet UCAS points requirements, can be used as part of the Tech Bac and will be included on the DfE 2017 performance tables.

Adult funding is now available for 2850 levels 1, 2 and 3. Adult 19+ short course qualifications in Welding, Metal fabrications, Thermal Cutting and Brazing are now approved. There are NVQs in level 2 PEO and PMO, level 2 Engineering Maintenance, Fabrication and Welding, level 2 Business Improvement Techniques and level 4 Engineering Manufacture. If you have any funding questions and other issues, please email Darren on darren.quinn@cityandguilds.com.

AQA – Simon Malarkey

AQA has been GCSE and A level based but is now moving into vocational areas with tech levels being launched currently. AQA have been working with employers to meet the gaps which employers feel exist and there is clarity in the provision. AQA will provide good support to centres. There are now 720 GLH tech level, UCAS approved, qualifications available such as in Design Engineering, Power Engineering and Mechatronics, ready for delivery from September 2015. There are no optional units, just 90 GLH units and 30% external assessment although there are some common units between these 3 pathways. There are to be a series of launch events or AQA are happy to visit centres. Other engineering and games design qualifications are also being developed. Please contact Simon on smalarkey@aqa.org.uk or Rich Powell rpowell@aqa.org.uk for any other details.

A tour of the facilities at Kendal College took place.

4) Trailblazer

Bob Millington represents NFEC members on 4 trailblazer panels. Most of the development work for the Foundation phase has now been achieved. Apprenticeships are driven by industry and the Trailblazer groups are made up from large employers, SMEs, AOs, professional institutions, GTA England, NFEC, Semta and a relationship manager. Essentially the level 3 Apprenticeship standard comprises of a foundation phase, development stage and the employer endorsement phase. Behaviour is a large factor and is assessed throughout the programme and especially in the final synoptic test. Apprentices know at the beginning that they will be removed from the scheme and so the general behaviour has improved on the pilot schemes. Assessment will take place at all stages. On the Automotive Trailblazer, at the end of the foundation stage, there will be a 3 day test session but not in the other Trailblazers. Government has been looking for some sort of end of apprenticeship test which may be carried out by a separate body but it is thought that the responsibility should lie with the employer ultimately so there are discussions ongoing with BIS.

For the Automotive 1700 GLH foundation phase, there are concerns for a capacity issue as the new intake will be starting whilst the previous intake are still there, having not yet completed.

Semta does not now exist as such in their old format. There is a requirement for somebody to look after future quality. A regulative body is suggested with maybe an advanced manufacturer's or employer's strategic advisory panel with the involvement of a sector specific working group.

It is seen that there will be problems for the training providers due to staff CPD and updating as well as for new investment in equipment. Companies may be able to help with these issues. JLR are funding extra money to pay for relevant new staff in providers. It might be possible to share equipment between providers if a "hub" of providers work together.

Qualifications are going to be NQF and only for Trailblazers at the moment. Providers wanting to be involved with Trailblazers need to send a letter to the Awarding Organisation of their choice saying that they want to work with that AO and the training provider must be an approved centre with the AO or achieve that. The panels are currently working to achieve titles which are multi skilled rather than automotive or aerospace specific. CNC machining will cover any CNC machining with core and then optional units will allow it to become relevant to all sectors. It requires 10 people to get together to make a new apprenticeship. During the tendering process, Industry may look at training providers to see if they are right for them by such means as history of apprenticeships with success rates, staffing profiles and strategies to fill in the gaps, a willingness to engage with partners, current equipment and physical resources or what is the current nature of relationships with current partners.

It is not possible for this Trailblazer programme to be replicated for a full time college programme. APL is being recognised by industry but isn't a perfect match. Trailblazer apprentices will achieve a certificate of achievement even if the apprentice doesn't complete all of the apprenticeship.

Engineering is part of the cap 5 funding which receives £18 000 from Government and £9 000 from the employer. The employer has to pay money first before Government will match this. Cashflow problems could arise for training providers if the employer doesn't pay for 90 days but the provider

has to fund everything upfront. There are additional incentive payments such as recruiting a 16-18 year old £5400, for small business £2700 and for successful completion £2700. These funding levels are committed for 2015/2016 starts and for the duration of the apprenticeship. There is no age barrier. In the case of a withdrawal, money that is used so far won't be clawed back. There is a suggestion now for a sort of voucher scheme as a funding mechanism. This will allow the employer to get a subsidy from the provider and the provider will get cash from SFA. There will be cost issues to the employer if the apprentice leaves the scheme.

All apprenticeships are to be running from 2017 onwards. GCSEs are expected to be achieved during the Trailblazer if the apprentice is taken on without them. There will be extra funding available for this. If the Trailblazer wants to "tweak" a unit they can so the title can be the same but the content can be changed depending on the Trailblazer itself such as aerospace, automotive etc. The first reviews are due in 2017 and will happen every 3 years.

If you have a query, please contact Bob on bob.millington@btinternet.com.

Mark Jones outlined some updates for the Electrotechnical Trailblazer which has been developed by IET, some SMEs, EAL and C&G. There is one qualification with 2 pathways - EAL level 3 Electrotechnical (installation) and EAL level 3 Electrotechnical (maintenance). These are being released to BIS on June 5th, hopefully for delivery from September 2015. There is just one unit different between them. It will take 4 years to gain the qualification and behaviour is encompassed throughout. There must be Level 2 English and Maths (gained during or already have on entry) and an AM2 qualification by the end of the apprenticeship as well. This should cover the requirements to satisfy Eng Tech. There is knowledge and performance criteria involved but it will be only the knowledge unit of Electrical Scientific Principles which will be graded and which will dictate the level of apprenticeship gained along with the achieved AM2 grade.

There is on screen assessment, centre marked assignments and written, centre marked assessments with an auditable portfolio of competent performance. There are teaching resources and lesson plans available.

5) Discussion on FELTAG

Slides from PETROC College were shown to highlight the requirements for development of online materials to support the FELTAG requirements. There is money available to upgrade speed of computers to help meet the requirements. This started a discussion on how the various providers were setting themselves up for this initiative. These included the use of apps, filming activities in workshops and the use of books in library. It was thought that the right units had to be chosen for a blended learning model. There is advice available on supporting BYOD (bring your own device), one college offers an ipad training course to its lecturers and then gives out an ipad to all those who attend. There is Cahoot, a quiz on phones which will track student's answers and progress.

Items for NFEC

There were no items for NFEC to action this time.

Topics for next seminar

Kerry from Furness College to give a demonstration on the use of technology in classroom delivery and blended learning.

Trailblazer updates, including feedback on the Trailblazer pilots as they are coming to the end of the first foundation phase.

Study programmes – sharing ways of doing this successfully.

Venue

Friday 23rd October has been suggested and Wigan will look at possibly hosting this event. Confirmation will be given nearer to the date.

Steve McAloone thanked everyone for attending and to Mike and Lorraine at Kendal College for hosting this seminar.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Organisation
Dave Porter	Boxford
Jill Mustard	NFEC
John Sankey	Riverside College
Tim Quarmby	EMCO
Phil Collier	Wigan and Leigh College
Sameer Ali	Festo
Phil Holmes	Festo
Mike Ashurst	Wigan and Leigh College
Adrian Roscoe	Runshaw College
Steve Ryan	Blackpool and Fylde College
Lorraine Yuill	Kendal College
Graham Wilkinson	Kendal College
Mike Morson	Kendal College

Steve McAloone	NFEC North West Regional Coordinator
Bob Millington	NFEC - Director for Regional Coordinator and National Liaison
Mark Jones	EAL
Steve Donoghue	EAL
Amanda Murphy	Pearson
Darren Quinn	City and Guilds
Simon Malarkey	AQA