



## NFEC REGIONAL SEMINAR – South West FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### City of Bristol College

There is a separate attendance list available.

#### 1) Welcome and Introduction to the seminar

Rich Walker welcomed everyone to the seminar on behalf of City of Bristol College with an insight into the College and its provision, set over several sites. Robert Coombes, as Chair, welcomed everyone on behalf of NFEC. Introductions were made around the room.

#### 2) Current matters of concern

There were no causes for concern.

Robert Coombes went through the meeting notes from the last meeting.

#### 3) Qualifications/Awarding bodies

##### Bill Lockyer - EAL

There are no major changes with new qualifications to report due to the uncertainties with Election, Trailblazers and funding changes. There has been a school's campaign focussing on KS4 and 5, which will appear on schools tables from Sept 2015 and which will tie in with apprenticeship schemes or HND. EAL have been working the other awarding bodies on Trailblazer Qualifications and if there are any specific EAL queries please contact customer care service on [trailblazers@eal.org.uk](mailto:trailblazers@eal.org.uk).

The Publications department are working on updating publications; fact sheets are now available on the website with electronic assessment materials which can be printed or kept as electronic so the marking can be automatically covered for you. Level 1 is complete with level 2 ongoing.

There are a lot of new qualifications available such as in Manufacturing, schools engineering programmes, installation, gas, plumbing, engineering, motorsports, telecoms installer, retail and sales and in Rail such as signal installer, maintenance and traction and rolling stock. There are also support qualifications with respect to traineeships.

There are EAL Roadshows being organised for 5<sup>th</sup> May at TATA Steel, Port Talbot and 6<sup>th</sup> May at Weston College. There are also training Webinars which are then added to You Tube as well as system support surgeries. Please ask Bill on [blockyer@eal.org.uk](mailto:blockyer@eal.org.uk) if you need any advice and guidance.

Klaus Muecher, Director of Learning – Science, Engineering and Technology joined the seminar to welcome us to the College.

### Bridget Stait – Pearson

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 is to be 19+ First qualifications, L2, on the technical certificate list for 2017 in Engineering and Construction and the Built Environment. There is an information event being held at Strode College in May. There is also an Extended Certificate with specialist manufacturing route being introduced.

There is a new regional quality manager, Viv Howells. If there is anything else please contact Bridget on [bridget.stait@pearson.com](mailto:bridget.stait@pearson.com)

#### 4) SEMATA STEM Alliance: STEM ShareWorkshop – Cerian Ayres, Head of Quality PETROC, Stem Advisor

SEMATA STEM Alliance are driving forward the quality of teaching and CPD for teachers and Cerian is part of the dissemination of this good practice and support materials. There is a skills gap and this initiative is to try to help stop the “leaky pipeline” of education, keeping young people interested in STEM subjects. It may help recruit more people from industry to teach in the sector, acquire new learners, enlist employers to help and have recruitment packages to retain STEM teachers. The CAVTL (Commission on Adult and Vocational Teaching and Learning) report has a lot more information. NEF are offering funding for lecturers to go out into industry and Enthuse awards are available (look at STEM Website for further details). The priority and the Top 10 growth areas of industry are mainly linked to technology and, specifically to Hinkley Point, and the nuclear industry affecting this region. Education needs to link with employers requirements for skills to help close the

skills gap, ensuring that learners have transferable professional skills, transferable personal skills and the technical subject knowledge and associated practical skills There are now around 14 colleges who are STEM assured by New Engineering Foundation.

Cerian shared a range of resources:

- 1) A STEM directory with email addresses and who can offer free training.
- 2) A series of 4 books on delivering a STEM agenda.
- 3) A resource on asking learners to focus on employability skills which are thought to be skills for any one employed in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Each hexagon has a skill such as communication, intrapersonal, independency and digital literacy and the resource asks learners to consider what they think is required for each.
- 4) For Heads of Engineering working with their own staff on how digital literate their department is. It has statements developed by JISC based on Feltag requirements and creating 10% of content online and asking them to discuss these as to whether things are already embedded in their working or non existent.
- 5) IET, Institution of Engineering and Technology, Post 16 careers pack and schools pack
- 6) A book listing free resources such as electrical engineering “how to make” kits.
- 7) A careers map for use with students to evaluate their own career and skills.
- 8) To help consider the development of English and Maths, a spelling, punctuation and grammar, SPaG, map to be used within a work topic.
- 9) There are resources which are helpful for running schools events, helping to portray enthusiasm for engineering and STEM subjects.

A tour of the facilities at City of Bristol College took place for both the Transport Centre and the Advanced Engineering Centre.

#### 5) Trailblazers – Paul Ashbee, GKN

Following on from Paul’s feedback on his involvement in Tailblazers at the October seminar, he gave an Employers point of view, giving an update of where we are now. The first standard for Aerospace is the Manufacturing / Mechanical fitter and a 2 page document covering assessment and qualification structure has been written. There will be pilots starting in September 2015. Awarding Organisations have been working together to develop the qualifications.

The development stage, year 1 level 2, will be like the current PEO with 8 mandatory units and some limited choice units. A business improvement techniques qualification at level 2 is also included. There is Eng Tech alignment. To help students with their level 3 maths, there is to be a level 2.5 maths qualification at level 2 with externally set assessment with pass/fail at about 70%. A BAR system as being used in Automotive is being shared for monitoring behaviour. There will be a gateway to level 3. At the moment the level 3 Technical Certificate is still in developed but it is planned for this to be given to the Trailblazer panel on 20<sup>th</sup> May so they can give feedback on the qualification.

The MOD Aerospace will stop at level 2 but most Trailblazers will continue to level 3. Aerospace training will be delivered in less than the 1400 GLH as in the Automotive and can be delivered in 36 weeks. It is possible for employers to take on apprentices with less than 4 GCSEs but the apprentices will need to achieve these during the apprenticeship.

Other Aerospace standards have now been started and have been approved by BIS.

There are still many challenges. BIS are now picking up on good practise from other Trailblazers and are giving guidance which may not be relevant the previous Trailblazer phases. BIS are focussing on an end assessment but employers are wanting practise and assessment throughout the apprenticeship. Funding does keep changing, with a voucher scheme being suggested now. Future submission dates are now more flexible but there are still moving goalposts. It is now recognised that a good employee who can do a good job should be able to move between sectors so there is more development of cross sector roles such as maintenance and machinists.

The future governance of the Trailblazer initiative has not been developed much since October.

A level 6 Automotive apprenticeship lasting 5/6 years is being considered whereas Aerospace are suggesting a level 4/6 apprenticeship, badged "Higher" but apprentices could continue until they get to their required level in their own timeframes.

A general discussion took place between the delegates on the current situation.

## 6) Items for NFEC

There is more information required on the qualification changes themselves and funding issues. NFEC will keep its members updated as soon as possible.

## Topics for next seminar

Potential topics were discussed:

- Trailblazer updates, new qualifications with employers views again and Paul Ashbee, GKN, agreed to take part if there are sufficient developments, BIS
- Skills Gap in the SW specifically, maybe based on LEP data (Chris Garcia, HoW and Becca Thurston)

## Venue

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July has been suggested and thanks to Tan Haq for offering to host the seminar at Strode College.

Bob Coombes thanked the Awarding body representatives, Cerian and Paul for their input, and thanks were given to Rich and Klaus at City of Bristol College for hosting this seminar. Rich Walker thanked everyone for attending.