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OCRnews



The Magic of Maths

**Manchester hosts UK's
biggest mathematics event**

Welcome

to the June 2010 edition of OCR News.

This edition's roundup of OCR activity provides the latest news from two of OCR's most important projects – OCR Nationals and the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). Updates from Wales and Northern Ireland, including how both are proceeding with QCF implementation, also feature.

OCR's diverse range of activities demonstrates a progressive outlook which will be of paramount importance over the coming months, as centres seek guidance through the post-election period.

Comments on this edition of OCR News can be sent to editor@ocr.org.uk

Fraser Tennant *Editor*

News in brief

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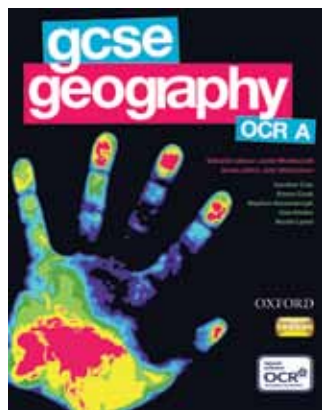
01

01 Becta Awards celebrate Technology Excellence in FE and Skills

Celebrating the success of those in the FE and Skills sector who use technology to improve the experiences of their learners was the second *Becta Next Generation Learning Awards 2010: Technology Excellence in FE and Skills*.

Co-sponsored by OCR, the awards covered: Adult and Community Learning, General FE (inc. land-based colleges), Independent Specialist Colleges, Offender Learning, Sixth Form Colleges, Voluntary Sector, and Work Based Learning. The multi-talented comedian, broadcaster and author, Sandi Toksvig (above), was the host for an evening in Birmingham which included an exciting new element – the *Furthering my Learning Award* which saw learners nominating organisations and institutions that are using technology to transform their learning environment.

A list of award winners is available on the Becta website: www.becta.org.uk



02

02 Celebrating vocational achievement on VQ Day

OCR is pleased to be supporting the 3rd annual VQ Day – a nationwide celebration of vocational learning which takes place on 23 June. VQ Day 2010 will bring together colleges and learning providers across the UK to celebrate the many paths to success taken by learners of all ages. Last year 3.6 million vocational qualifications were awarded and millions more will achieve similar success in 2010. To find out how your college, school, learning provider or employer can get involved this year, please visit www.vqday.org.uk/about-vq-day or call 020 7419 6950.

03 OCR comes first with full functional skills accreditation

OCR has beaten its competitors to become the first awarding body with a full suite of accredited functional skills qualifications at all levels. This follows the news that its Functional Skills English Entry Level 3 qualification has been accredited by Ofqual.

01



03

03 Answers@OCR provides 24/7 answers

Answers@OCR is a new web-based pilot service from OCR which gives customers access to an extensive knowledge database.

It's currently available for the following subjects: *Thinking and Reasoning Skills Level 2*; *GCSE Geography* and *GCSE Design and Technology Innovator Suite*. Navigating the site involves the *Hot Topics* section and typing your question into the Search Box or using the *Browse the FAQs* area to locate best match results. If further information is required, a question can also be sent via email.

Suggestions can also be made using the *My Information* box on the right side of the page. Subject to feedback, OCR will expand this service to include further qualifications.

02

02 'Fresh and exciting' OCR endorsed Geography book wins award

'Fresh, exciting and relevant' - that's how the Geographical Association described Oxford University Press' *GCSE Geography OCR A* book during the Association's Annual Awards in Derby which saw OUP pick up a prestigious Silver Award in recognition of the publication's 'innovative' content.

Held as part of the Geographical Association's Annual Conference (where OCR's Geography team provided support and guidance on its GCSE and A Level Geography specifications), the awards recognise resources associated with Geography in schools and colleges which are considered to have made a significant contribution to geographical education and professional development. Endorsed by OCR for use with the OCR GCSE Geography A specification, the OUP *GCSE Geography OCR A* book provides comprehensive support for your course such as coverage of key issues and ideas, fresh and up-to-date content, a stimulating approach to issues, exam-style questions.

Margaret Roberts, former President of the Geographical Association, said: "While books written for many of the GCSE specifications focus on course content and 'training' for examination, this book, written for the innovative OCR A specification, does much more. The fact that the specification itself is radically different in terms of content and approach inevitably means the book starts with an advantage, one that allows it to cover themes that are fresh, exciting and relevant and provides the scope to include completely new content and resources."

Other books in this series include *GCSE Geography OCR A Teacher's Handbook* and *GCSE Geography OCR A OxBox CD-ROM*.

A full list of award winners is available on the Geographical Association website at: www.geography.org.uk

Accreditation extended for OCR Nationals

The February 2010 edition of OCR News outlined the process of getting OCR Nationals qualifications reaccredited for teaching in September 2010. Excluding a number of enhancements to ICT Level 2, no changes have been made to the qualifications; their structure, content, method of assessment and administrative arrangements remain unchanged, as do their SCAAT and UCAS points.

Greg Watson, OCR Chief Executive, said: "Teachers have told us about their success stories with OCR Nationals and how these qualifications have engaged students in ways that other qualifications haven't. This is at the heart of OCR Nationals and we believe it is important to retain the unique features that make it so popular with teachers and students alike.

"We were aware we needed to respond to centres wanting to make decisions on their curriculum. We therefore decided to apply for an extension to accreditation for current OCR Nationals, which has now been accepted. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the delay in keeping centres up-to-date on our progress while extensive discussions continued, but with something this important, we needed to take the most responsible course of action and wait until we were certain our submissions for extensions were approved."

For detailed information, visit the OCR Nationals 2010 pages on the OCR website at: www.ocrnationals.com or email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk.



New OCR video highlights ICT Level 2 changes

A new OCR video highlighting the changes made to the OCR Nationals ICT Level 2 qualification for the 2010/11 academic year is now available to view on the OCR website. The video – ICT Level 2 Changes – is presented by OCR's ICT Nationals Qualifications team.



ICT Level 2 Expo events set out the changes

Providing centres with an overview of the changes to OCR Nationals ICT Level 2, as well as offering the opportunity to network, share best practice and discover how the changes will impact delivery from September 2010, was a series of events which took place at Manchester University; London, Wellcome Trust; and Birmingham Botanical Gardens in June.

OCR presented its curriculum pathways for science and discussed the options available including the new GCSE and the OCR Nationals in Science specifications. OCR science experts were also on hand to answer questions to help centres make the right decisions for their students.

Key Stage 4 OCR Science Conference: exploring curriculum pathways and qualifications

This conference took place over the course of three events at prestigious venues in Manchester, Birmingham and London and attracted decision makers who need to make strategic choices about the provision of KS4 science qualifications now and in the near future.

A high calibre line-up of guests - including 'Naked Scientist' Dr Chris Smith, Professor Jeff Forshaw, Simon Gulliver (horticulturist), Stephanie Sinclair (Wellcome Trust), and Wendy Sadler (science made simple) - shared their passion for science in engaging students and delivering science teaching in centres.

New resources for centres keep QCF migration on track



OCR has made a number of resources available for centres as the countdown continues to the migration of qualifications from the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) to the Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF) in September 2010.

A new online guide – *What's new: your guide to qualification migration to the QCF* – lists the existing OCR vocational qualifications that are due to be migrated within the NQF and the planned QCF qualifications that will replace them. The guide is available on the OCR website and can be accessed by clicking *OCR Migration Guide* in the *Popular Resources* section of the homepage. Also available now is a dedicated QCF email address – qcf@ocr.org.uk – which has been set up to answer QCF queries from centres.

Liz Green, OCR's Head of Post 19 Qualifications, said: "These documents have been produced following close collaboration with our customers. They're now available to all our centres and have received excellent feedback at a series of customer-facing events we have run recently."

Regular updates to the guide will be made via input from the Sector Skills Councils, Sector Skills Bodies, and the Learning and Skills Council, to ensure the availability of the most up-to-date information on how the QCF transition will impact on learners and centres.

For an update on how the QCF migration is progressing in Northern Ireland and Wales, see pages 10/11.



Mathematics Magic in Manchester

Engagement + collaboration = success at BCME event

A rewarding and inspiring mathematical experience was provided by the *British Congress of Mathematics Education (BCME7): Mathematical Progressions* – a quadrennial event which brought together the greatest minds in the world of maths education to celebrate, enrich, refresh and build mathematical and pedagogical confidence and expertise.

Held over four days at the University of Manchester, the event, sponsored by OCR in partnership with Texas Instruments and the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM), offered attendees (such as postgraduate students, newly qualified teachers, Primary and Secondary teachers) a wealth of guidance and inspiration for classroom activities and curriculum planning through access to a vastly experienced lineup of Mathematics experts. OCR's very own specialist subject experts were available on the OCR stand to help visitors (including Maths teachers and stakeholders) learn more about the newly accredited OCR GCSE 2010 Mathematics specification (see right) as well as the latest developments concerning Functional Skills Maths 2010 (see right).

Julia Williams, OCR's Maths and Functional Skills Curriculum Manager, said: "BCME7 is unquestionably the most important event in the maths calendar and it was great for OCR to attend, especially as it is held only every four years. Instead of running a number of much smaller individual events, this one brings together many maths organisations so that best practice can be shared amongst all interested parties and networking opportunities are that much greater. Being one of the three lead sponsors gave OCR a very high profile at this event which led to stronger relationships with our fellow sponsors, Texas Instruments and NCETM. We were also able to use our presence to introduce and develop relationships with Maths stakeholders including a number of people from Higher Education who would like to get involved with OCR to developing projects in the future."

Our problem-solving taster pack delivered in partnership with the School Mathematics Project tasks was very well received and supports both our GCSE for 2010 and Functional Skills."

Also available were the latest A Level assessment research findings by OCR Moderator Chris Little from the University of Southampton. Chris presented a summary of his main findings (as part of a workshop session, see below) and discussed their relevance to OCR A/AS Level mathematics qualifications. A popular interactive element, *Maths in Motion* – created by OCR, Texas Instruments and the NCETM – gave participants a stimulating, hands-on experience via a range of interactive problem solving tasks. *Maths in Motion* also offered the chance to win a TI-Nspire™ handheld device and a CBR 2™ Motion Sensor – an ultra-sonic motion detector which collects and analyses real world motion data.

A range of workshop programmes took place over the event's four day duration and featured an impressive array of speakers including the following OCR associated personnel: Dr Jennifer Piggott who discussed *Creativity in Problem Solving*; Chris Little who looked at *A/AS Level mathematics examination questions: can they effectively assess mathematical modelling?*; Eddie Wilde and Geoff Gibb who showcased *OCR GCSE 2010: Making maths work for you*; Garry Haynes and Anne-Marie Gillespie who considered *The OCR approach – Functional Skills*; and Andrew Jeffrey with an invigorating, interactive session that brought problem solving and functional maths to life and covered key themes from OCR's new GCSE Mathematics specification. Andrew's workshop also suggested inspirational ideas for 14 – 16 teaching.



OCR Functional Skills Maths achieves accreditation

Earlier this year, Ofqual confirmed accreditation of OCR's *Functional Skills Maths at Entry Level (1-3)* qualifications for first teaching from September 2010. OCR has been at the forefront of developing functional skills assessments and its three year pilot – which involved 1,700 schools, colleges and learning providers – has provided a unique insight into what functionality means to assessment design.

Centre handbooks/specifications for the *Functional Skills Maths at Entry Level (1-3)* qualifications are available to download from the OCR website.

GCSE Maths

OCR's GCSE Maths specifications A and B have achieved accreditation and will be available for first teaching from September 2010. Developed by teachers for teachers, the specifications can be taught in linear or modular formats and learners can be moved from one course to another should they need to as they develop. In addition, learners will be able to develop analytical and problem solving skills in a range of contexts, which they can take across into employment or further study.

GCSE Maths A gives teachers a real choice in that learners can be moved between unites, staged, or linear routes. The linear GCSE Maths B specification has been accredited following the rejection by OfQual of our draft Maths B modular replacement GCSE specification to J517 Graduated Assessment.

The accredited GCSE Maths specifications can be downloaded from the OCR website.



A Gateway to the Arts: New online resource launched by OCR

An exciting new Gateway – www.ocr.org.uk/thearts – has been launched by OCR to assist teachers and learners in the development of Arts, Creative and Performing Media skills.

Focusing on four distinct areas - *Art & Design, Drama and Performing Arts, Music, and Media Studies*, the Gateway provides a wealth of material including detailed syllabus specifications, schemes of work, exemplar materials and marking schemes. The Gateway also features galleries of students' work for Art, Music and Drama and a *Meet the Team* option providing an introduction to the dedicated OCR team overseeing the Arts, Creative and Performing Media portfolio. "There is a great deal of synergy between the different subject areas within the Arts", says Neil Cameron, OCR's Curriculum Manager for Arts and Humanities. "In creating this single Arts resource, we can offer a seamless link between the subjects, making access to information and guidance as straightforward as possible for teachers and learners."

To complement the launch, OCR has produced an informative folder-brochure that will be distributed to centres soon.

The brochure will also appear on the Gateway as a downloadable e-brochure. Further exciting features on the Gateway include a Twitter page and an opportunity for centres to have their work showcased – both online and at dedicated OCR events.



OCR Arts Gateway at the Aldeburgh Festival

A world-renowned performance centre, Aldeburgh is a place where artists can be inspired and energized. This year's 63rd Festival (11 – 27 June) was sponsored by OCR parent company, Cambridge Assessment, and showcased OCR's new Arts Gateway (see above).

www.aldeburgh.co.uk





First-ever National Career Guidance Show sees OCR and ICG forge unique partnership



Forging a unique partnership at the first-ever National Career Guidance Show (NCGS) in London were OCR and the Institute of Career Guidance (ICG) who co-presented a thought provoking seminar – The Importance of Learner Choice – for careers professionals at the Emirates Stadium.

Part of a range of activities run by show co-sponsors OCR, the seminar considered the importance of choice, recognising that all learners are different, and that good career advice and guidance is essential in helping individuals, employers and the UK economy as a whole. Pauline Tait, Policy and Development Manager at the ICG, said: "Careers guidance practitioners have had to recover from a number of body blows over the last few years including a significant reduction in resources. However, I believe that we are now firmly back on the map. We must educate key stakeholders about the importance of careers guidance and learner choice so that we can build a sustainable workforce for the future. We must embrace new communications technology such as Twitter so that information and guidance can be shared with young people whilst at the same time recognising the importance of one-to-one communication. All of these play a crucial role in the education and welfare of individual young

people and the efficient working of the labour market and the economy. We must explain and celebrate what we do, as we know that we can make a real difference."

Continuing the theme, OCR Chief Executive Greg Watson (above left) said: "We need to get back this notion of learner choice and fight back against some of the trends over the last 20 years. We seem to have developed a problem with the idea of choice. There seems to be a fear that young people shouldn't be given too much choice and that if left to their own devices they will make terrible choices for themselves. As far as I'm concerned every young person is different – in terms of their preferences, their talents and skills – and the starting point should be what's going to be right for you?, how do we guide you to the right choices? We've got to be thinking about guiding young people down a pathway that gives options at the end and not just to a specific job that a predictive model is going to give you."

Showcasing OCR Nationals

A suite of qualifications designed to provide the option of choice advocated by Greg were strongly in evidence on the OCR stand. One of the fastest growing qualifications in the UK

today, OCR Nationals are a unique suite of KS3 – KS5 qualifications which support a practical, motivating approach for learners and provide transferable skills relevant to FE, HE and the workplace. Further attracting visitors to the OCR stand was an OCR Nationals Career Game offering entry into a prize draw to win an iPod Touch. Elsewhere, a selection of OCR Nationals case studies, presented by OCR's Principal Moderators, helped tell the engaging and challenging story of this exciting skills-assessed suite of qualifications.

With almost 2000 visitors over its two-day duration, the inaugural NCGS was a considerable success with key career professionals from schools, colleges, universities, career bodies and government agencies getting the chance to catch up with the latest information about career routes and opportunities at a friendly, informal, and informative event.

Considered to be 'the voice of careers guidance', more information on the Institute of Career Guidance, including details of their forthcoming annual conference, is available at www.icg-uk.org

PREVIEW

Reforming assessment: the challenges

In the past decade alone, England has witnessed numerous crises of assessment reform from the introduction of Curriculum 2000 A levels to the appointment of a new contractor for marking national curriculum tests.

The challenges of assessment reform will be addressed at the 5th Cambridge Assessment Conference on 21 October at Robinson College, Cambridge. Leaders from many areas within education are expected to attend. Professor Paul Black from King's College, London, will open the conference. There will also be a panel discussion chaired by Mike Baker, former BBC Education Editor. Panelists including Dr Mary Bousted from the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, and Kathleen Tattersall from Ofqual, will respond to questions submitted by audience members.

Further details are available at: www.assessnet.org.uk/conference2010



Great Debate finale: Reuben triumphs with Pantridge at Clare's

As a co-sponsor of the Historical Association's nationwide debating competition – The Great Debate: *Why does your local hero matter?* – OCR was witness to its thrilling conclusion as Reuben Vandercruyssen from Sullivan Upper School, Belfast, won for his exceptional presentation on his local hero – physician and cardiologist Frank Pantridge.

Held amidst the grandiose surroundings of Clare College, Cambridge, the Great Debate Final 2010 saw the winners of the regional heats compete against each other as they represented their local heroes in the same format as the heats – a five minute presentation followed by a question and answer session with judges. Winner Reuben (who also won his regional heat in Belfast) was closely followed by the runner up, Anna McCrory from Bolton School Girls' Division.

Introduced by Rebecca Sullivan and Heather Scott, CEO and Deputy President of the Historical Association, the competition judges were Professor Anne Curry, President of the Historical Association; Dr Dave Musgrove, Editor of BBC History Magazine; Dr Robert Baldock, Managing Director of Yale University Press; and Andrew Preston, Senior Lecturer in History and a Fellow of Clare College at Cambridge University. Representing OCR was Neil Cameron, Curriculum Manager for Arts & Humanities, alongside fellow sponsors Hodder Education and Yale University Press.

Neil said: *"The standard of the finalists was exceptional; the enthusiasm for their chosen Local Heroes was clearly evident and their detailed knowledge bore testament to their thorough preparation. All the entrants and finalists have shown outstanding research, argument and presentation skills. OCR is very pleased to have been a co-sponsor of such an interesting and varied event."*

Simon Brown, Events Officer for the Historical Association, added: *"For the judges it was a very hard task to choose a winner. We had an intriguing range of heroes. Some were well known but were*

presented in a new light. Others were plucked from obscurity by a passionate oration. The enthusiasm of all the speakers was boundless but also impressive was the serious historical research and reflection which underpinned their speeches. The quality of all the finalists performances were truly astounding and made deciding on a winner and runner up particularly hard but in the end the choices made by our panel of judges was unanimous."

The 2010 Great Debate competition got underway during the autumn and winter of 2009/2010 across schools in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and involved over 150 schools and over 230 students taking part in 20 heats. Students aged between 16 and 19 were given five minutes to debate the question: *Why does your local hero matter?*

Footage from the Great Debate Final 2010 is available on the Historical Association website at: www.history.org.uk/news



Reuben Vandercruyssen with Anne Curry, President of the Historical Association



The Great Debate finalists



Professor Frank Pantridge MD, CBE
(1916-2004)

by Martin Wedge, 2009.
Collection of Queen's University, Belfast



Hardy takes a bow at *Doing History*

The Historical Association's Annual Conference, *Doing History*, was boosted by OCR's presence as a sponsor, exhibitor and host of a number of workshop sessions. The OCR sessions looked at how sources can be used by teachers and students in the sixth form and how students can approach cause and consequence. OCR's History Team was available to provide support and guidance on the GCSE and A Level History specifications. In addition to a fine cast of historical experts, acclaimed actor Robert Hardy CBE (above), a regular portrayer of Winston Churchill on film, television and radio, and an authority on medieval warfare, was a guest speaker at the Conference in Sheffield.

Frank Pantridge: Local Hero

Professor James Francis "Frank" Pantridge, MD, CBE (1916 – 2004) was a physician and cardiologist from Northern Ireland who transformed emergency medicine and paramedic services with the invention of the portable defibrillator.



Studying the business of football

Looking out for the next generation of UK business entrepreneurs, OCR joined representatives from the Premier League, Enterprise UK, and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) at Premier League: Creating Chances (Enterprise Academy) – a special event showcasing a real-life marketing campaign for Fulham Football Club by Year 9 students from Surrey.

The *Apprentice*-style challenge was part of the Enterprise Academy, a business skills development initiative which aims to help 400 pupils aged 11–19 from schools in the Fulham area develop their business skills as they work towards gaining the OCR *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise*. A term-long vocational learning project, students taking the OCR qualification are educated about the inner workings of a football club from a business perspective, learning about all the different sections of the organisation that help a club operate successfully.

It's all part of our overall creating chances programme which aims to inspire young people to raise their horizons and look forward to see what they can do in the world of business.

Hosted at Fulham Football Club, the event saw pupils from two schools – Coombe Boys' School and Raynes Park High School – demonstrate the variety of business skills they have learnt to a rapt audience, which included two high profile backers of the initiative: Richard Scudamore, Chief Executive of the Premier League and Lord Davies, Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business.

Explaining the concept of the Enterprise Academies, Richard Scudamore, said: *"We at the Premier League have been using the power of football to try and make a difference where we can. It's all part of our overall creating chances programme which aims to inspire young people to raise their horizons and look forward to see what they can do in the world of business. Clubs are an interesting microcosm of a whole lot of businesses – sales, marketing, safety, logistics, catering – this is the focal point of the initiative. Today it's been excellent listening to both schools and the ideas that you have come up with. The only way we can make things happen is through working with partners and I would like to see this grow as it is a fantastic scheme and a great hope for the future."*

Lord Davies, added: *"Sport in general and not just football can help inspire young people. Football is big business. It involves so many people across the country and I think what we have to do is inspire young people to start a business. If we can get all the Premier League teams to make this into a very big scheme I think it will be a fantastic success. We're trying to get more people to start small businesses and we have 4.8 million of these in the UK at the moment. I believe that the way in which we can inspire young people is through schemes like this."*

Fulham Football Club is one of 12 Premier League clubs – and the first London club – to deliver the *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise* in local schools. The target is to have every Premier League club engaged with the programme by the end of the year and it is envisaged that 5000 students will achieve the OCR qualification within the next three years.

Once achieved, students looking to continue their studies have a variety of options available to them, including:

- OCR Nationals in Business and ICT
- GCSEs in Business/Applied Business
- OCR Certificates in Enterprise (Young Enterprise)
- OCR Awards in Understanding Business Enterprise Activities
- OCR Certificates in Employability Skills (Ready Steady Work).

To find out more about the OCR *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise*, please contact Qualifications Leader Sophy Walker, at: sophy.walker@ocr.org.uk.





Newcastle Enterprise Academy celebrates first anniversary

Celebrating the ongoing success of the Enterprise Academy business skills development initiative was a special event at St James' Park, Newcastle, which marked the first anniversary of Newcastle United Football Club's involvement with the Government and Premier League initiative.

The Newcastle Academy has proved to be a resounding success in its first year with students from 20 schools across Newcastle, Northumberland, Gateshead and North Tyneside reaping the benefits of the OCR-accredited *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise*, which aims to improve business skills by using Newcastle United Football Club as a real-life business model.

Amidst the celebrations, Lauren Poundall of All Saints College received an iPod from OCR's Customer Liaison Manager, Richard Powell, for being chosen as *Student of the Year*. Lauren said: "I've learnt a lot about business and enterprise and Newcastle United. I'm so glad I had this opportunity."

The target of the Enterprise Academy initiative is to have every Barclays Premier League club engaged with Premier League Enterprise by the end of 2010. To date, 12 Premier League and Football League clubs have established Premier League Enterprise Academies: Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Blackburn Rovers, Burnley, Everton, Fulham, Hull City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Newcastle United and Sunderland.

left to right: Sam McLoughlin, Enterprise Academy co-ordinator; award winner Lauren Poundall; and Richard Powell



OCR Repository: new video resource for centres now available

The OCR Repository – OCR's electronic submission portal – is now being supported by a new video which provides centres with all they need to know about this exciting resource.

Introduction to the OCR Repository, available to view through the OCR Interchange link on the website, showcases centres where the OCR Repository is being used successfully. Simon Banks, ICT and Technology Qualifications Group Manager, said: "The introduction of the OCR Repository as an option for OCR's centres is an important step in the modernisation of assessment. Many centres are already responding to the new option with energy and enthusiasm, and we look forward to working with centres over the coming years to ensure that the Repository is fit-for-purpose for all its stakeholders."

Additional OCR Repository support available on the OCR website includes Assessor and Centre Guides and Repository Q & A.



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Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise

The *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise* is designed to introduce students to business and entrepreneurship by using real life examples drawn from Premier League football clubs whose Enterprise Coordinators deliver the qualification in schools.

Primarily aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, the qualification aims to establish the basic principles of business and self-employment through a range of learning opportunities, with emphasis placed on introducing knowledge and skills in a way young people can relate to and understand.

The *Enterprise Academy Certificate in Business and Enterprise* is currently delivered in over 210 schools across the country. Students taking the qualification gain a greater understanding of how a business works, start to develop 'employability skills', which are useful for future employment, have the opportunity to think through learning options and career choices and learn how to work individually and in a team.

The Premier League aims to roll out the initiative across all Premier League football clubs by the end of 2010.

The OCR Repository

The OCR Repository is a secure website for centres to upload candidate work and for assessors to access this work digitally. It is used for submitting marked controlled assessment samples and work for external assessment.



New OCR DVD inspires a fresh approach to Poetry

An exciting and innovative DVD – *Virtual Visions* – will be available as a free resource to support OCR’s new poetry anthology, *Reflections*, from summer 2010.

Using poems from the anthology, the DVD will contain examples of learners using performance, art, dance, music and technology to explore and interpret selected poems in support of the new 2010 GCSE English specifications.

Supported by guidance notes and including examiner tips and an expert panel discussion on poetry, *Virtual Visions* has been designed to:

- Stimulate discussion and interest in the poems
- Demonstrate a variety of creative teaching approaches to engage learners
- Show the different ways in which pupils in a range of schools have explored the poems

Debbie Daniels, OCR’s seconded English teacher, said: *“It was a pleasure to work with so many creative schools and to see the different approaches used in teaching poetry. For example, Year 10 learners at Matravers School in Bath have explored Carol-Ann Duffy’s poem Who Loves You through the medium of drama, and they also produced a dance interpretation of Thomas Hardy’s The Voice. I’m confident that teachers will be inspired by the range of interpretations schools have provided for us. I think that this DVD will really help teachers delivering the new OCR GCSE English specifications and offer a unique resource that will help to promote our offering.”*

If you are interested in receiving a copy of *Virtual Visions*, please email: support@ocr.org.uk



Behind the scenes during the making of *Virtual Visions*

PREVIEW

OCR and NATE – promoting standards of excellence

Sponsored by OCR, this year’s 47th National Association for the Teaching of English (NATE) Conference – *Making Meanings, English at the Heart of Learning* (9 – 11 July) – aims to reflect on how the teaching of English enables students to become active makers of meaning through reading, writing, speaking listening, acting, producing and thinking; as well as through the study of literature, language, media and drama.

Working closely with NATE, OCR will engage with an audience of English teachers, lecturers, researchers, advisers and consultants with the key features of its A Level, Functional Skills, and GCSE English qualifications. Copies of *Reflections*, OCR’s new poetry anthology for GCSE English will be available, as will the exciting and innovative DVD, *Virtual Visions*, which includes audio-visual presentations and interpretations of poems for learners.

More information on the NATE Conference can be found at: www.nate.org.uk



NATE – promoting excellence

Northern Ireland Update

GCSE English and Science: Specification development issues

The Department of Education (DE) has now informed OCR that its GCSE specifications – English, English Language and English Literature – will be made available to schools in Northern Ireland.

However, candidates taking GCSE English will not be permitted to take any of the other specifications in addition – a similar restriction to that imposed in England. With GCSE Science, the ‘Additional Science’ criteria includes a footnote indicating that *‘a specification leading to the certificate title ‘Double Award’, where the content is set out on the Science and Additional Science criteria combined will be accredited by the regulators but will be for use in centres in Northern Ireland only.’*

The footnote was added to take account of curriculum differences at Key Stage 4 in Northern Ireland as compared to England/Wales. GCSE Science and Additional Science specifications will continue to be permitted in Northern Ireland.

Wales Update

Essential Skills Wales (ESW) update

OCR Cymru held two events in May 2010 for the new suite of Essential Skills Wales qualifications that will replace Basic Skills and Key Skills (in Application of Number, ICT, and Communication) from September 2010. A report on both of these events will appear in the next edition of OCR News.

OCR will also be holding a series of 12 ESW events in four locations across Wales in the 2010/11 academic year to further maintain a high level of support across all the regions. We will also be continuing our support for the Wider Key Skills with separate sessions for beginners and advanced practitioners.

For further details on Essential Skills Wales, please email: essentialskillswales@ocr.org.uk or call the OCR Cymru office on 02920 537810.

Learning Pathways

14–19



March 2010 saw the first support day for OCR Classics in Northern Ireland with a considerable number of teachers in attendance.

The day was an opportunity for teachers to come along and find out about the full range of qualifications that OCR offers for Classics and to ask questions about the new specifications.

Subjects covered on the day were: GCE Classics suite and the specific GCE qualifications Classics; Ancient History Classics; Classical Civilisation Classics; Latin and Classics; Classical

Greek and GCSE Latin and Classical Greek; and Ancient History and Classical Civilisation. A new qualification currently under development – Latin Entry Level – was also introduced.

Organised into Classical Languages in the morning and Classical Civilisation and Ancient History in the afternoon, an additional feature of the day was the showcasing of GCE History. One delegate felt that he *'found every session and topic enthralling'* and *'seeing the enthusiasm for the subject area reminded him of why he began teaching in the first place.'*

OCR hosts QCF update event for centres

Helping to provide centres with up-to-date information on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), earlier this year the OCR office in Ireland hosted delegates from over 60 centres who received a wealth of information including copies of *What's new: your guide to qualification migration to the QCF* (see page 3) and the online guide, *QCF Spotlight*. Feedback from the event indicated that delegates were 'impressed' with the information and support available and 'commended' OCR on the way changes to the QCF are being communicated.

ATL takes place in Belfast

The ATL Annual Open Session, Conference and Lecture took place on June 3rd in Belfast. The event included an open session on *What's so good about Montgomery County?* and a lecture on *Comparative International Education Systems*.

Further events for 2010/2011 will be posted on the *Events* page of the OCR website.

Principal Learning in the Welsh Baccaulaureate



OCR is working with DCELLS, Skillset Cymru, and Creative and Cultural Skills to finalise the delivery plan approvals for the Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Caerphilly 14–19 network consortia.

All three network consortia have full approval from OCR to run the Principal Learning in Creative & Media qualification from September 2010. Consortia will now be able to apply for start-up funding through DCELLS to deliver this exciting new qualification within the Welsh Baccaulaureate framework.

OCR recently held some bespoke inset sessions at the prestigious Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay. The Centre is home to the Welsh National Opera, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and National Dance Company of Wales amongst others. All the consortia involved could take part in full day sessions that were tailored specifically to cater for their individual needs. Local creative employers and sector skills councils also attended the events to forge links with consortia enabling them to effectively

deliver the work-related education part of Principal Learning.

OCR is the only awarding body that is both accredited by Ofqual and approved by the Welsh Assembly Government to offer Principal Learning in Creative & Media in Wales at Levels 1, 2, and 3. If your network consortia are interested in delivering this qualification from September 2011, please contact john.adamson@ocr.org.uk in the OCR Cymru office for details of future INSET training and how to gain centre approval.

OCR has also very recently had confirmation of accreditation for other lines of learning in Business, Administration & Finance, Hospitality, plus Manufacturing & Product Design. These add to our existing Principal Learning (Wales) portfolio which also includes IT and Engineering. All OCR Principal Learning qualifications are available at Levels 1, 2, and 3.



Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) update

OCR recently undertook a project with Yale College in Wrexham to look at curriculum planning for new QCF qualifications.

OCR's Maureen Everett and John Adamson met staff at the college to discuss how different units in the Office, Secretarial and IT sectors could be combined to provide a pathway of rounded learning. The aim of this is to result in an outcome that gives the candidate employable and recognisable qualifications at the appropriate level. Debbie Tong from Yale College said: *"It was most informative and helpful for us all, and we are all now much more positive going forward."*

One feature of the QCF is that some units can be used in a number of different qualifications, for example, Text Production can be used in both Text Processing and Administration qualifications. This makes it possible to plan provision which uses such units in an efficient way that maximises outcomes for the learner whilst using the provider's resources effectively. OCR worked with Yale College to explore this in more detail. Robin Hughes, national manager for OCR in Wales, said: *"I hope OCR can do more of this in the future. It is important that we all find ways of delivering good solid outcomes for the learner whilst ensuring sustainable models of delivery."*

Forthcoming events

OCR has a packed events schedule over the coming months. Why not come and visit us?

23 24
JUNE JUNE

SSAT Annual Maths and Computing Conference

Radison SAS, Manchester

On Thursday 24th June, delegates have the opportunity to speak with OCR representatives about OCR's range of Mathematics qualifications, such as GCSEs, Functional Skills and GCEs. This year's theme, Generating the X Factor: Creativity and Enjoyment in the Next Decade, will be a subject for debate for keynote speakers throughout the duration of the event.

24
JUNE

The Future of Further Education Annual Forum

Bloomsbury Hotel, London

OCR is the sponsor of this post election update on Further Education which will see Pat Bacon, President of the Association of Colleges and Principal of St Helens, address over 100 Principals and Senior Managers on the changes that the post-election world will bring to the FE sector. Paul Steer, OCR's Director of Stakeholder Relations will take part in the panel discussion, Growth markets, curricula and vocational pathways through FE, at 12.15pm.

1 2
JULY JULY

SSAT Science conference

Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham

To be held in the pioneering Magna Science Adventure Centre, OCR will be in attendance at this conference on the opening day of the event. Delegates will have the chance to speak to Science experts about OCR's innovative Science portfolio, including developments to the OCR Nationals in Science and have a look ahead to changes taking place in 2010 and 2011. The conference also offers stimulating workshops and the opportunity to share innovative teaching and learning strategies.

2 3 4
JULY JULY JULY

Schools History Project Conference

Leeds Trinity University College, Leeds

OCR will be participating in this three day event which features over 20 workshops by the country's top teachers and historians. The event will cover a range of topics across KS3, GCSE and A level. For support and guidance on GCSE and A Level History Specifications, OCR's History team will be available on Stand 13.

2 3 4
JULY JULY JULY

ATP Annual Conference

University of Keele, Staffordshire

This year's ATP Annual Conference – Teaching Psychology: Changing lives, changing minds – is the top UK event for teachers of Psychology. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to share good practice as well as being updated on the latest and developments in the field and technology in teaching. Visit OCR's stand to speak to the Psychology team and get details about OCR workshops.

9 10 11
JULY JULY JULY

NATE

Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire

OCR is delighted to be sponsoring this year's NATE conference – a key event in the English Teaching calendar. On offer will be a range of activities to invigorate and inspire passion in teaching English, as well as promoting excellence and innovation in the classroom. Practical workshops covering themes such as Shakespeare, poetry and spoken language will be available through the OCR stand team who will also provide information on OCR's portfolio of English qualifications.

14 15
JULY JULY

ALP Conference

Riverbank Park Plaza, London

Hosted by BBC Breakfast's Susannah Reid, the Association of Learning Providers Summer Conference – which includes an OCR sponsored pre-gala dinner and drinks – aims to explore the themes, opportunities and challenges that the post election landscape will present to all 16+ learning providers.

www.ocr.org.uk

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