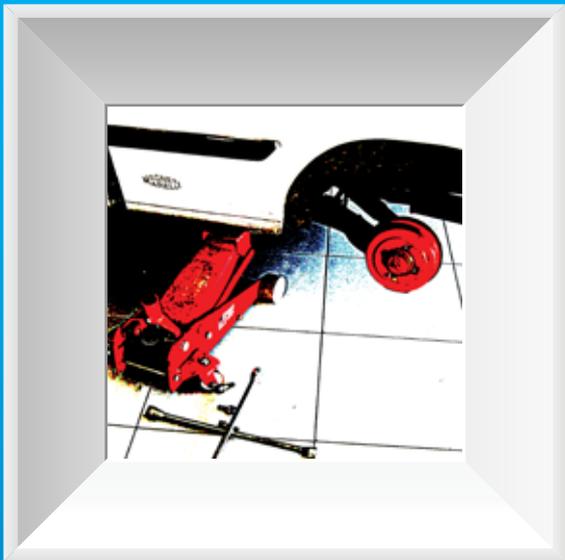


alpha

ABC
AWARDS

ABC Awards Newsletter - Issue 13



Retail Success

Liverpool Community College
Basingstoke College

Award Winners

Myerscough College
South Devon Skills

New Centres

Root and Branch
Knowle DGE

Plus: Milton Keynes College • Local Solutions • Apprenticeships • Exhibitions and Events • Aspire at Chesterfield

Welcome

to the 2011 edition of Alpha,
the newsletter from ABC Awards

In a year that has seen ABC Awards (ABC) affected by many external factors, our Qualifications Development Team has worked tirelessly to get all our qualifications onto the QCF and to try to have them recognised for as many funding streams as possible.

The team has now started to produce excellent resource materials in support of the qualifications, whilst our Business Development team, together with our administrators and moderators have done an excellent job of taking these new qualifications out to centres. We have focussed on producing more up to date qualification flyers and bulletins that deliver regular and current information and as you will see in the newsletter, our ICT systems have kept up to date with all the changes necessary to support the centres.

Our centres and learners in response, have forged ahead with getting to grips with the new QCF qualifications and have produced outstanding results. This year, more so than ever, ABC Awards has been astounded by the success being achieved by learners undertaking our qualifications.

Read our feature on Liverpool Community College (page 9) and the remarkable success it has had with its ABC Fashion Retail / Visual Merchandising learners.

For the fourth consecutive year, ABC has been proud to sponsor learner achievements at both Milton Keynes College for the Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art, Design and Media (Page 5) and Myerscough College, Lancashire for Animal Nursing Assistants (Page 8).

At ABC Awards we are always keen to welcome new centres and this year has been no exception. Read the story from Root and Branch, a centre which offers people recovering from Mental Illness the opportunity to engage in a variety of horticultural / craft / woodwork and Blacksmithing activities (Page 10). Knowle DGE (Page 11) is a new specialised centre for young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) who have had issues settling into mainstream schools. These young people often display challenging behaviour. They now have the opportunity to access 4 different qualifications through ABC.

ABC has attended a greater number of Events and Exhibitions in the last year, ensuring that our portfolio is showcased across new platforms and we were proud to be included as a sponsor for the AELP National Conference 2011.

I am sure you will agree that ABC Awards is working hard to ensure the success of our qualifications and your learners. We hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter and please let me know if you have any comments or queries on anything we have featured.

Bernadette Done
Marketing and PR Manager

Executive Director's int

I would like to start my introduction to the 2011 ALPHA by highlighting that our primary 'raison d'etre' is learner achievement. About a decade ago, the OFSTED mantra was that the learner is at the heart of everything we do but this is not always as apparent as it should be.

It is therefore a pleasure to see articles in the newsletter about outstanding learner success at Liverpool Community College and Basingstoke College, the Local Solutions Learner Achievements and the success of Knowle DGE and Root and Branch. ABC Awards derives enormous satisfaction from these learner success stories and great pride in the contribution its qualifications make towards them.

With migration to the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) now complete, ABC has over 700 regulated qualifications across 14 sectors and contributes to Apprenticeship Frameworks at all levels.

Customer support is of course essential to ensure the successful delivery of our qualifications and our Business Development Directorate ran a large number of events throughout 2010 – 11 to support our centres, offering practical advice and help to tutors and assessors. Over recent years, ABC Awards has continually enhanced its web based systems reducing the burden of data management for centres and helping improve the responsiveness and quality of our customer through its 3 main systems.

More details can be found on page three.

The 'austerity measures' mean less money in our customer budgets and in learners' and indeed employers', pockets. Rising unemployment only emphasises the need for people, especially young people, to develop their employability skills and level of qualifications although often with less financial support available than might have

been the case in the past. ABC is doing what it can to recognise these problems and indeed has frozen all its enrolment fees for 2011/12. The unitised and credit nature of the new QCF will make it easier for people to achieve in smaller steps, which is particularly important at this time.

Although government representatives from Cameron down have taken to saying how much they value vocational qualifications and Nick Gibb, Schools Minister, offered 'to give the sector greater independence over the qualifications it offers, but without taking the choice away from students', the recent Wolf Report has the feel of starting from the conclusion that what everybody needs at 14-16 (and indeed 16-19) is GCSEs and more GCSEs followed by A Levels rather than meeting learner needs which in many cases will or should involve at least some vocational learning. They have invented the 'English Bacc' as the compulsory core – not actually a qualification but a basket of 'approved qualifications' including GCSE English, Maths, Sciences, Humanities (History/Geography) and a language. Reading the runes the anticipated norm for learners will be 10 GCSEs and re-takes of GCSE Maths and English until they pass!

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Foundation Learning



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Aspire Award



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Charity Shop Sales



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Green Fingering



roduction



There are worrying signs that some heads will fill the timetable of marginal C/D Grade learners with 5 GCSEs to increase the chances of achieving 5 A-C Grades. Not much sign there of independence and learner choice...or vocational options! A presumed divide of 80% 'core' and 20% other has emerged but there are strong signs that much of the 'other' will be more of the same. There is to be a (short) list of approved vocational qualifications for those brave souls who wish to branch out from the academic mainstream which will count for the Performance League Tables. Heads will be technically 'free' to offer learners whatever they feel is appropriate but nothing outside the approved list will count towards the Tables. So will learner needs win out over the presumed higher value of academic subjects and the driver of Performance League Tables?

We wish all our customers and learners the very best for 2011/12.

Nigel J Florence,
Executive Director

ABC Awards - ICT Systems Delivering Customer Support

Over the past few years, ABC Awards (ABC) has enhanced its web based systems reducing the burden of data management for our centres and helping improve our responsiveness and quality of customer service.

The screenshot shows the ABC Awards website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, Qualifications, Courses, Invoices, Registrations, Exam Results, ULN Issues, and Logout. A 'Help' icon is also present. The main content area is titled 'Courses' and displays details for 'Course ID 157953'. Below this, there are links for 'Claim Certificates', 'E1 Confirmation', 'MS1 Mark Sheet', and 'Additional (Blank) MS1 Mark Sheet'. A table lists course details: Qualification & Pathway (C7501-E2 Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life (Entry 2)), Centre (Robinswood Training), Site (Robinswood Training (NGB 3NH)), Course Start Date (01/09/2008), Course End Date (21/07/2009), Course Day/Time, Tutor, Tutor Email, Assessor, Assessor Email, Notes/Special Instructions, and Created By (Fred Smith 07/01/2009 09:57:00). Below the course details, there is a section for '2 Candidate Registrations' with links for 'Add Candidates', 'Export List', and 'Claim Certificates'. A table lists candidate registrations with columns: Reg ID, ULN, ABC Reg ID, Forenames, Surname, DOB, and five columns for marks (01, 02, 03, 04, 05). Two rows of candidate data are shown, each with an 'Update' link.

Online registration system Exemplar.

Our 3 main systems:

Allocation and Claims System (ACS)

This is the sub-contractor interface to our main database. It has been designed to allow sub-contractors to view and accept assignments, submit reports and claims directly into our main database. Our sub-contractors now have all the information they need in one easily accessible location. This has also significantly reduced postal activity and final claims are also processed via this online system.

ABC's Administrators have found that they can monitor and track sub-contractor activity much more effectively which has allowed us to respond more comprehensively to centres.

Online Registration System (ORS)

This system allows centres to record learner enrolment on units and qualifications. We have produced a helpful user guide in addition to accepting imports from centres' Management

Information Systems (MIS), this reduces the need for centre staff to duplicate work unnecessarily. Once centres are approved by us, they have full access to this on-line guide. Centres will also soon be able to claim certification directly via the system.

Awards Management System (AMS)

This is our main database which integrates all activity for enrolments, moderation, examination and certification. A large number of predefined queries has been produced to allow administrators to offer a quick response to a wide range of queries from our customers. We can keep an active track of progress, with the option of chasing up any issues that might be slipping behind schedule. It also allows us to report on appropriate performance indicators to Ofqual.

Besides improving customer support, the smooth integrated ICT systems have also made a valuable contribution to reducing our organisation's carbon footprint.

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World Skills



Page 10
Root and Branch



Foundation Learning Case Study – North East Lincolnshire Motor Project



The Motor Project enables learners to achieve qualifications which they value.

The North East Lincolnshire Motor Project has been helping learners develop self esteem and learn new skills since 1999 by successfully engaging with young people who traditionally have difficulties in attending mainstream education.

The Project focuses on teaching skills in motor vehicle studies and light engineering. Emphasis is placed on learners working as part of a team, using their initiative and developing their communication skills. As a result of this approach learners have found that learning can be fun.

“The motor project is continuing to raise awareness of foundation learning”

The Motor Project did not offer qualifications, and therefore was encouraged to work with the Foundation Learning Team at North East Lincolnshire Council to deliver accredited qualifications in partnership with schools and other organisations.

The Motor Project registered its first group of learners on the ABC Level 1 Award in Motor Vehicle Studies in January 2009. The Project Team wanted a qualification that fitted with their activities at a level suitable for the learners. The ABC qualification was found to meet the criteria. In addition, it was found that ABC had straightforward systems and procedures and affordable approval costs.

Achievement of the accredited qualification has given the learning taking place at the Motor Project more purpose and credibility. Learners in the area who have disengaged from mainstream education now have a practical alternative: the Motor Project enables them to achieve qualifications which they value.

This achievement also contributes to school performance measures, and is

enabling learners to continue their studies at college, either continuing with more advanced Motor Vehicle courses, or studying a related subject such as engineering. Some learners remain with the project and progress onto the ABC Level 1 Certificate in Motor Vehicle Studies.

The Project Team has found the support from ABC's External Moderator, David Dickson, to be invaluable, and has also appreciated the speed with which ABC responds to queries.

The Future

With the support of the team at North East Lincolnshire Council, the Motor Project is continuing to raise the awareness of Foundation Learning in schools and colleges in order to recognise learner achievement. New opportunities have arisen for working in partnership with the newly formed academies. The Project Team is currently looking to embed ABC's Awards in Personal and Social Development as part of the course offered to learners.

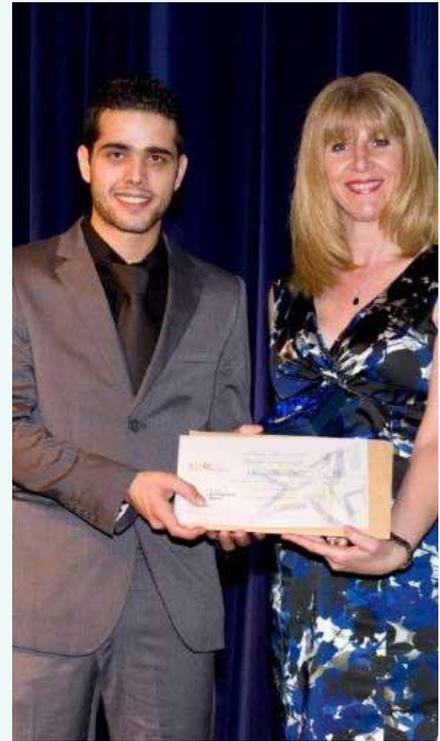
South Devon Skills Awards 2011

ABC Awards (ABC) was delighted to be invited to sponsor a category of learner at the South Devon Skills Awards which were held at the Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay earlier this year.

The Awards were a celebration of excellence in developing and applying skills by learners and employers across Torbay, Teignbridge and South Hams. The sponsors, Torbay Development Agency wanted to recognise the achievements of people at every stage of their life and career, the support provided by employers of all sizes across every sector and the impact this has made on businesses.

ABC sponsored the "Achieving Skills for Life" category and the two nominees were Marcio Barbeitos from the Derwent Hotel (Torbay Leisure Hotels) and Paignton Secretarial College and Julie Horne, a care assistant at the Abbeywood Nursing Home and Devon Vocational Training (DVT).

ABC Awards Business Development Manager Tracy Harker attended the event and presented certificates and prizes to the two nominees.



Julie Horne and Marcio Barbeitos receiving their awards from Tracy Harker - ABC Awards.

Basingstoke College – retail success



Connor Morris receiving his award.

Basingstoke College of Technology recently held an annual prize giving event at which ABC Awards sponsored a learner prize for the most outstanding Final Major Project on the Level 3 Diploma in Fashion Retail. The college's Fashion Retail Co-ordinator Sarah Gallagher told ABC Awards.

"The ABC Awards prize went to Connor Morris—Clark whose citation read: 'Connor has worked very hard to produce a fantastic Final Major Project

based on "Androgyny." At the recent exhibition his work stood out as an exemplary project. He has produced a fantastic selection of high quality work which was visually very strong including a photo-shoot, research boards and books and a fantastic Vogue Supplement in which he wrote articles exploring Androgyny and Fashion in society today. Not only is he talented in styling but he also writes extremely well and I hope in the future he applies these talents in the work place."

Art, Design, Media & Performing Arts Exhibition 2011 Milton Keynes College



Carol Graham from ABC Awards was invited to the Milton Keynes College Exhibition for the School of Art, Design, Media and Performing Arts held on Wednesday 29th June at Middleton Hall, thecentre:mk. Carol was delighted that Rob Sewell received the ABC Awards sponsored prize for the Level 3 Diploma in Foundation Studies Art, Design and Media.

The citation from the college regarding Rob reads:

"Rob proved himself to be an excellent student, ambitious, self motivated and mature. He always worked to the highest standard, constantly pushing himself to improve and happily taking on additional design projects whenever the opportunity arose. Additionally he was always willing to take time to help his peers and showed a serious interest in social issues, bringing them into his projects."

"Rob is a student to be very proud of"



“These young men are a credit to young learners of today and a credit to their company and profession of fabrication and welding”

Lee Maddison pictured with Ray Peet and Carol Graham of ABC Awards.

Chesterfield College - Aspire Awards 2011

Showcasing the great and the good at the Aspire Awards 2011.

Chesterfield's Casa Hotel played host to this year's Aspire Awards, Chesterfield College's annual ceremony which recognises some of the outstanding achievements reached by its learners.

ABC Director of Business Development, Carol Graham, presented a High Achievement in Fabrication and Welding ABC Award to Lee Maddison who recently completed an advanced apprenticeship at Chesterfield's Hi-Tech Welding and Fabrication Limited which has clients across Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.

Lee attended college from September 2007 to July 2011, completing an advanced apprenticeship scheme through Learning Unlimited, the college's employer engagement arm. In total Lee has accrued an impressive list of Fabrication and Welding qualifications including: NVQ Level 2, an Employment Rights and Responsibilities

(ERR) unit, ABC Levels 2 and 3 certificates, 5 key skills at Level 2, and an ABC Level 3 Diploma all completed during a part time day programme, spending the remainder of the week with his employer where he is a vital member of the company.

Not content with attending his day release programme he also paid for himself to attend the ABC Level 4 Diploma in Supervisory Management on a separate evening with a successful outcome in July 2011.

Ray Peet, Engineering student support manager at Chesterfield College explains, "Lee has the right attitude towards learning and improving himself and has always been willing to attend additional evening sessions to complete his practical and theoretical tasks. He's been an exemplary student throughout his years with us and to complete all 4 levels of the ABC Fabrication and Welding programmes plus an apprenticeship framework via Learning Unlimited is a credit to his determination to learn, improve and succeed."

Also gaining an Aspire award on the night after achieving the ABC Level 4 Diploma in Supervisory Management on an evening only basis was David Hubbard who completed his advanced apprenticeship at William Cooke, Sheffield this year via Learning Unlimited. Having gained so many qualifications and also having close to 100 percent attendance during his studies, college staff were keen to reward David with an Aspire award for all he has achieved.

Ray Peet adds, "These young men are a credit to young learners of today and a credit to their company and profession of fabrication and welding."

Students help to boost charity shop sales

Thirty-five ABC Awards Fashion Retail learners at New College Nottingham (ncn) competed for the best dressed window display as part of a project at Headway charity shop in Mapperley.

Headway, which raises money to improve the lives of people after brain injury, set learners the challenge of creating a window display, incorporating their brand identity, current fashion trends and customer profile.

Fashion Retail student Amber Gretton hopes to open her own clothing boutique in the future. She commented: "We wanted our window to look colourful and appealing to passing trade and to showcase the variety of products on sale to attract our target market.

I'm really pleased with the finished result. We worked well as a team, each bringing something different to the task."

ncn Fashion Retail Lecturer, Michelle Foster, commented:

"This is a great opportunity for our students to gain practical experience and apply the theory they are learning on their course."

In teams of three or four, learners dressed the shop window every week for ten weeks. Judging was based on organisational skills, team work, visual merchandising and overall sales.



Eloise Gordon, Laura Garrard and Amber Gretton work on their window display.

Exhibitions and Events

ABC Awards continues its increasing presence at national conferences and is now exhibiting at a wider selection than ever. This past year has seen us at a large number of The Schools Network (formerly SSAT) qualification conferences, which will culminate this year in a national conference in Birmingham in December 2011.

To showcase the expansive range of our qualifications portfolio we have also attended the Annual Youth Justice Convention in Brighton, the Sixth Form Colleges' Forum AGM / Annual Conference in Birmingham,

the Languages show at Earls Court, a NEET Conference in Birmingham, the PACE Conference in Blackpool, the Offender Learning Review Conference and an Offender Management Conference both in London and the Future of Apprenticeships Conference also in London.

We also exhibited and sponsored a drinks reception at the AELP (ALP) Summer conference in London in June and hope to be involved in their Winter Conference in early 2012. We also attended a series of SSAT Design events to promote ABC's range of Arts qualifications. Our Business Development Team ran an enormous

amount of events throughout 2010 – 11 to support our own qualifications and offer practical advice and help to tutors and assessors delivering the ABC qualifications. Events were held to support Language qualifications and in particular Japanese offered with the assistance of the Japan Foundation in London. Youth Work events were presented in conjunction with Regional Youth Work Units and NCVYS throughout the country. We also offered a number of events to introduce the new Level 2 Motor Vehicle qualifications, events concerning Fashion and Textiles as well as events for Welding and Catering.

"For the coming year, we intend to continue with our attendance at relevant national conferences and hold further support events for our centres and for those who may wish to become an ABC Awards approved centre."

A list of exhibitions and events can be found on the web site and we look forward to meeting you at some of these throughout the year.

Green fingered learners awarded certificates



Learners with Rita Smith of Local Solutions and Bob Ashcroft.

One of ABC's centres, LOCAL SOLUTIONS is a leading social enterprise in the North West of England, established in 1974. They have a proven track record of improving the quality of life for vulnerable and excluded people in the region. They held a presentation event in February for learners to celebrate their achievement of the ABC Level 1 Certificate in Practical Environmental and Conservation Skills at Sefton Park Allotments.

Plot 8 at the allotments in Liverpool 17, has been converted into a customised training allotment with classroom and toilet facilities for use by people with disabilities ranging from physical to learning difficulties.

Learners were presented with certificates which was followed by a buffet to mark the

occasion and allow assessors, staff and students to mingle.

Bob Ashcroft, Local Solutions Quality Assurance Consultant and ABC's Lead Moderator for Land Based qualifications, was thanked for all his hard work and support for over 10 years. He has played a pivotal role in raising the standard of Quality Assurance within Local Solutions and helped maintain high standards of excellence throughout all occupational areas.

Rita Smith of Local Solutions told ABC that she was pleased with visits from the External Verifier who was able to provide the horticulture team with helpful advice on the delivery of the awards and was very supportive of the assessing staff. We congratulate Rita and her learners on their success.

Myerscough College Presentation of Awards Ceremony 2011



ABC Awards, for the fourth year running was delighted to sponsor an Award at Myerscough College for the Animal Nursing Assistants qualification. The winning student was Teresa Driver Her tutor commented:

"Teresa has worked really hard to complete this course and has completed her case-logs and course work to a high standard."

Teresa continues in full time employment in the industry and we wish her well.



Fashion students win the World Skills 2011 final



ABC Awards (ABC) Fashion Retail qualifications have really taken off over the past year or so at Liverpool Community College.

Two Liverpool Community College fashion learners Melissa Dunne and Jenna Stephenson, who teamed up to represent the college in the Skillsmart Retail annual competition, skillVM (Visual Merchandising), won the Gold award and first place in the SkillVM Competition in June 2011. They were delighted and so excited at their prize; to work with the Visual Merchandising team in London to install their window at Peter Jones in Chelsea in August. This win in the World Skills 2011 UK final comes after competing with learners across the country.

In the first heat they had to submit a design idea for a window based on the theme of 'colour blocking'. The challenge was stepped up a notch during the second heat when they were asked to produce a 3D model of their original design in under an hour as well as deliver a three minute presentation to professionals in the visual merchandising and fashion retail industry.

The two now former learners attended the UK Skills Awards at the Worldskills 2011 Event at Excel in London at the beginning of October to collect their Gold Awards.

Course Leader Lucy Hughes said: "Winning the SkillVM UK final was an unbelievable achievement. Both Jenna and Melissa competed against some of the

country's top candidates and to come out top is just fantastic. Collecting their awards at the Worldskills 2011 arena demonstrated the high level of their achievement. They are a credit to both themselves and the college.

Thank you for all the support we have received from ABC. Both of them have successfully completed the Level 3 Diploma in Fashion Retail and have learnt their skills in VM whilst doing so."

Melissa and Jenna will now have the opportunity to go on and represent the UK in the world visual merchandising competition in 2013.



"Winning the SkillVM UK final was an unbelievable achievement. Both Jenna and Melissa competed against some of the country's top candidates."

“we can develop an area of land into an ‘ABC Awards Garden’ which will reflect the content of the curriculum.”



Root and Branch Oxfordshire

A new centre to ABC Awards, Root and Branch, based in Oxfordshire are really excited about the opportunities working with us brings to them.

The centre tells us “Having recently signed up to deliver ABC Awards qualifications, we are excited about the potential benefits to the people using our service. As an organisation based in rural Oxfordshire Root and Branch offers people recovering from Mental Illness the opportunity to engage in a variety of horticultural/craft/woodwork and Blacksmithing activities.

People experiencing mental illness are some of the most disadvantaged in society, often excluded from the work place

and socially isolated, but studying for a recognised qualification can help to build an individual's self esteem. It validates what they already know and builds on the knowledge and skills they're gaining from being at Root and Branch. People gain confidence from managing to study even while they're recovering from an illness and from gaining a qualification; then they feel more confident when applying for employment/voluntary work or further training opportunities.

The opportunity to identify units from a large selection has allowed us to develop the most appropriate curriculum for both our service and the people who use it. It has meant that we can develop an area of

land into an “ABC Awards Garden” which will reflect the content of the curriculum from preparing the ground, planning the planting scheme, growing the plants from seeds and cuttings, and planting and maintaining the area.

ABC Awards qualifications offer various opportunities to gather evidence of achievement, and assess the knowledge and skills gained – this is ideal for learners who attend the project as this flexibility allows us to recognise the individual's abilities and difficulties and adjust the assessment process to match.”

ABC qualifications with Knowle DGE



ABC Awards qualifications have had a significant impact on learners at Knowle DGE Learning Centre.

Knowle DGE is a new specialised centre for young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) who have had issues settling into mainstream schools. These young people often display challenging behaviour. They now have the opportunity to access 4 different qualifications through ABC. These are Motor Vehicle Studies, Land Based Studies, Animal Care and Hospitality and Catering with more tutors looking at switching to ABC qualifications in other study areas.

The Head Teacher, Mr Peter Evans, believes that a lot of the recent success in year 11 accreditation is due to the switch to ABC qualifications.

“We had our best results ever, last year, and all the students made positive and confident moves onto Post 16 courses, proud of their success at Entry Level and Level One. You could see their confidence and self-belief grow in front of your eyes and all are happily continuing further education”.

Knowle DGE is now currently looking at increasing its range of ABC qualifications to include Level 2 and Diplomas.

“The style of approach used in the ABC courses really suits the young people with SEBD and also those with Learning Difficulties. We would recommend it to any similar specialised setting, or as positive alternative in mainstream setting.”



Qualification Development

During the past 12 months, ABC Awards has completed the transfer of its qualifications to the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). Our portfolio consists of over 700 Ofqual regulated qualifications covering 14 sectors. All our qualifications have been designed with the support of relevant stakeholders to ensure that they meet the needs of both learners and industries across the UK.

This means that the qualifications are designed to give learners the skills needed to find employment, progress within education or enhance their skills in their current job role.

The Qualifications and Credit Framework

All our regulated qualifications are unit based with

- Clear Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria
- A Level from Entry Level to Level 6 showing the difficulty of the unit / qualification
- A Credit value indicating how much time it takes to a learner to complete
- Guided Learning Hours indicating the time that a typical learner will require in direct guidance – from a teacher, tutor or other identified guidance provider – to complete their programme of learning for the unit successfully

Units are used as building blocks for all qualifications which sit on the QCF and are put together in a Rule of Combination to form a qualification.

The size of a qualification is determined by the minimum number of credits a learner must achieve from all the units included in the qualification.

Qualifications with a minimum target of **1-12 credits** are given the title **Awards**
Qualifications with a minimum target of **13- 36 credits** are given the title **Certificates**
Qualifications with a minimum target of **37 credits and over** are given the title **Diplomas**

Expansion of our portfolio

ABC has expanded its portfolio in a number of areas such as

- Landbased
- Retail
- Hospitality and Catering
- Fashion and Textiles
- Languages
- Motor Vehicle where we now have Level 2 qualifications as progression from our Level 1 Motor Vehicle qualifications.

Our Arts portfolio continues to provide opportunities for learners to develop skills and knowledge from Level 1 to Level 3.

New areas of Development

We have also developed qualifications in new areas for ABC such as

- Health and Social Care
- Working with Vulnerable Young People
- Warehousing and Storage
- Construction
- Assessment Practice
- Internal and External Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

The future

During the next 12 months, ABC Awards will be reviewing a number of its existing qualifications to ensure their continued relevance to both learners and industry. As always, we are interested in your views and we shall be inviting our centres to take part in short surveys relating to our existing qualifications to inform the review process. ABC will value your contribution.

We are also exploring the possibility of expanding our portfolio further in a number of areas. Keep checking our website for details.

We are also working on resource materials to help support centres in the delivery and assessment of qualifications.

Apprenticeships and ABC Awards

As employees, apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Off the job, usually on a day-release basis, apprentices receive training to work towards nationally recognised qualifications. Anyone living in England, over 16 and not in full-time education can apply.

Apprenticeships can take between one and four years to complete depending on the level of Apprenticeship, the apprentices' ability and the industry sector. *All employed apprentices will get a wage, at least the National Minimum Wage (NMW) however, as skills develop, many employers tend to increase wages – in fact, research has found that apprentices earn an average of £170 net pay per week.

**www.apprenticeships.org.uk*

Key benefits:

- earn a salary
- get paid holidays
- receive training
- gain qualifications
- learn job-specific skills.

There are three types of Apprenticeship:

Intermediate Level Apprenticeships

Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 2 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

Advanced Level Apprenticeships

Apprentices work towards work-based learning such as a Level 3 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

Higher Apprenticeships

Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 4 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Foundation Degree.

ABC Awards has developed qualifications which contribute to Apprenticeships in the following sectors:

- Animal Care
- Environmental Conservation
- Floristry
- Horticulture
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
- Fashion and Textiles
- Health, Public Services and Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- International Trade and Logistics Operations
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise
- Warehousing and Storage

For further details of all qualifications consult ABC's web site.

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