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18th May 2004

Dear Colleague,

Withdrawal of GNVQ Retail and Distributive Services

Edexcel is working closely with the QCA to ensure that centres are informed about possible alternative qualifications to GNVQ. I should therefore like to inform you about the possible alternatives to the GNVQ in Retail and Distributive Services which is being withdrawn with the first phase of subjects ie last assessment in Summer 2005. The withdrawal of these specifications means that centres will have to seek alternative provision for their students.

The significant dates for Edexcel Foundation/Intermediate GNVQ in Retail and Distributive Services are:

Last start date for teaching of a two-year course	September 2003
Last start date for teaching of a one-year course	September 2004
Last summer examinations/moderation	Summer 2005
Last re-sit assessment opportunity	January 2006
Last Certification	March 2006

QCA has published 'GNVQ Successor Provision: Alternative Qualifications' (Feb 2004) which details the qualifications currently available to centres, including the BTEC suite of qualifications. BTEC qualifications have laid the foundations for student success for over 25 years. Our high quality vocational qualifications blend the needs of the classroom with those of the working world, giving students greater choices for their future. BTEC courses are generating substantial interest from schools especially in the light of current 14-19 curriculum developments.

BTEC Level 1 Qualification (Equivalent to GNVQ Foundation)

BTEC Introductory Diploma and Certificate in Business, Retail and Administration

The draft specification will be available on our website in June 2004 and we are hoping it will be available for first teaching in Sept 2004.

Features of this qualification:

- Certificate : 180 guided learning hours equivalent to 2 GCSEs D-G
Diploma: 360 guided learning hours equivalent to 4 GCSEs D-G
- Funding available - the qualifications will be listed on Section 96
- Qualifications will be listed on DfES Performance tables
- Qualification structure - core units, personal skills units, specialist option units
- Core and specialist units graded Pass, Merit, and Distinction.
- Internally assessed, with one externally assessed unit based on a project written by Edexcel

Factors to consider before offering this qualification:

- There is some common ground between the GNVQ Foundation Retail and Distributive Services and the BTEC Introductory Diploma and Certificate in Business, Retail and Administration with some units having similar titles. However, it is recommended that you look in detail at the unit content to make sure this is suitable for your students.
- **Centre and Programme approval is needed** before students can be registered on these courses, so this will need to be in place **before Sept 04**. You will need to contact your centre adviser so they can explain the process. Please call your nearest Regional Office to obtain the name of your adviser (see list at the end of this letter)

For specification detail see our website www.edexcel.org.uk

BTEC Level 2 Qualification (Equivalent to GNVQ Intermediate)

BTEC First Diploma in Retail

Features of this course:

- 360 Hour guided learning hours - equivalent to 4 GCSEs A* to C
- Funding available - qualifications are listed on Section 96
- The qualification is listed on the new DfES Performance tables
- Graded Pass, Merit , Distinction
- 5 units internally assessed, 1 unit externally assessed using an Edexcel set Integrated Vocational Assignment
- Core and option units available

Factors to consider before offering this qualification:

- There is some common ground between the GNVQ Intermediate Retail and Distributive Services and the BTEC First Diploma in Retail with several units having similar titles. However, it is recommended that you look in detail at the unit content to make sure this is suitable for your students
- **Centre and Programme approval is needed** before students can be registered on this course, so this will need to be in place **before Sept 04**. You will need to contact your centre adviser so they can explain the process. Please call your nearest Regional Office to obtain the name of your adviser (see list at the end of this letter).

For specification detail see our website www.edexcel.org.uk

What Next?

- If you wish to offer any of these qualifications at your school it is important that you contact us, so that we can give you advice and help you with the approval process.

Edexcel can also offer **curriculum support and advice** about any aspect of GNVQ withdrawal through our network of regionally-based Subject and Curriculum Advisers. Contact details can be obtained from your nearest regional office, which are listed below:

BIRMINGHAM
West Midlands
2nd Floor
Block B
3 Broadway
Broad Street
Birmingham
B15 1BQ

Tel: 0121 616 2575/85
Fax: 0121 616 2576
birmingham@edexcel.org.uk

BRISTOL
South West
Cribbs Business Centre
Hollywood Lane
Cribbs Causeway
Bristol
BS10 7TW

Tel: 0117 950 1908
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bristol@edexcel.org.uk

CARDIFF
Wales
Unit C
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St Mellons
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CF3 0LT

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LONDON
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Stewart House
32 Russell Square
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WC1B 5DN

Tel: 020 7758 5493
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MANCHESTER
North West
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Spinnaker Court
Chandlers Point
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Salford Quays
M5 2UW

Tel: 0161 877 0801
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Full details about the suggested alternative qualifications can also be found on the Edexcel website - www.edexcel.org.uk

Should you have any further questions, please contact us using the details above.

Yours sincerely



Gill Poole
General Manager
Schools