

EDI shares its vision and best practice for Functional Skills at the AoC Annual Conference

As colleges nationwide prepare for Functional Skills, EDI's experts will be on hand at the forthcoming AoC Annual Conference to provide advice and guidance for integration and delivery. As the UK's first Awarding Body to deliver Functional Skills online, EDI has led the way by using on-screen technology to assess these vital skills.

In supporting FE colleges to experience a smooth transition from Key Skills in September 2010, EDI is involving college staff in regional functional skills consortiums to share best practice and experiences.

With a wealth of knowledge and expertise gained throughout the three year pilot, EDI's experts will be available at the show to provide advice on the issues facing colleges. These include how to integrate Functional Skills into learning programmes including Foundation Learning Tier and Apprenticeships and how to manage varying levels of engagement from feeder secondary schools.

Functional Skills consist of the core elements of English, ICT and mathematics, providing learners with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding to help them work effectively and independently in education and the workplace. They will form a compulsory component of Diplomas, Foundation Learning and Apprenticeships. This new qualification comes after employers in the UK called for young people entering the workplace to be equipped with more targeted and relevant skills.

Currently in its third and final year, the Functional Skills pilot is made up of more than 2,800 centres including schools, colleges and training providers. EDI has delivered mathematics, English and ICT qualifications throughout the three-year trial.

Wiltshire College has worked with EDI as an awarding body for key skills and participates in the Functional Skills pilot. Karen O'Connell, Director of Curriculum, Foundation Skills at Wiltshire College, comments: "We are delighted with the way EDI has responded to our requests for support. We find them very responsive to ongoing problems with what is a rapidly changing area, keeping us up-to-date and helping us to solve problems."

Available on-demand and on-screen, the assessments allow colleges and schools to deliver the qualifications online site making the qualifications more accessible to learners. Assessments are submitted to EDI for marking, reducing paperwork for teachers and enabling results to be processed swiftly. The assessments can also be adapted for use by learners with special education needs.

Gareth Phillips, Director of Business Development at EDI said: "EDI has a track record of providing advice, guidance and support to FE colleges, schools and training providers during the functional skills pilot. We will continue to run regional workshops and consortiums to further support the development of best practice. Being part of the pilot from the start has enabled us to incorporate client feedback and refine the delivery to meet the QCDA's evolving standards. By offering assessments online and on-demand, teachers can benefit from EDI's flexible approach and excellent levels of service."

For more information about Functional Skills visit www.ediplc.com, call: 024 7651 6560 or email: enquiries@ediplc.com.



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