

John Wheatley College

Summary of Progress Made to Address Main Point for Action

Year On Report to Scottish Funding Council

The College should take action to improve levels of retention and attainment on HE programmes where they are low

1. All teams who delivered HNC programmes during session 2009/10 were required to make a presentation to the Academic Board highlighting the actions they had taken to improve retention, attainment and wider achievement.
2. All HNC programme team self-evaluation reports have been considered within the College self-evaluation procedures as detailed in the report included in the pre-visit information pack.
3. The HNC in Computing was not offered in session 2009/10 as that team were required to implement an action plan which sought to 'refresh' the National Certificate programme by introducing a range of new more current Units in digital media, revise the pre-entry guidance and recruitment process and further develop learning and teaching approaches to provide opportunities for greater learner engagement. This was as a consequence of it being identified that the NC programme was not effectively preparing learners for study at HNC level. The NC programme has consistently been the provider of the greatest number of recruits for this programme.

Following a review of progress against this action plan it was agreed that the HNC Computing would be offered in session 2010/11.

In addition the HNC programme will be systematically monitored during session 2010/11 with regard to retention, attainment and wider achievement.

4. The Sound Engineering team also revised the content of the National Certificate programme, as this was the primary source of learners for the HNC programme, in order to provide learners with further opportunities to develop the core skills required for more advanced study.

The HNC team revised the recruitment/selection process for session 2010/11 making greater use of the Target Skills assessment tool.

Further opportunities to use practical projects such as the Rostov on the Don/Burns Celebration event are being used to develop employability and enterprise skills.

The team is also seeking to develop further articulation routes for HNC Sound Engineering learners with a range of other colleges including Cumbernauld College.

In addition the team will implement the revision proposed to the HNC Units as detailed in the SQA Programme Review for this curricular area.

5. The HNC AIT team have considered the programme structure for session 2010/11 in light of learner attainment in the previous session. This will include the offering of an additional qualification to learners to further enhance their employment prospects.
6. The HNC Social Care programme team have been required to provide an action plan to address low retention and attainment as a consequence of the College internal review procedures. This action plan is being implemented during session 2010/11 and is subject to routine review of the progress made against the agreed targets.

As a consequence pre-entry guidance procedures were reviewed and revised. Programme delivery was re-designed to take account of learner views with the disaggregation of an integrated assessment exercise into three discrete units.

In addition greater emphasis has been placed on formative assessment within the learning and teaching process.