

National 5 Qualifications

The following was passed at the SSTA Congress in May.

“Because of the radical change in content and lack of preparation time, the SSTA demands that the Cabinet Secretary for Education instructs the SQA to suspend immediately the changes to National 5 Computing and Biology”

“Young people are starting their National 5 courses as we speak. The SSTA demands that the Cabinet Secretary for Education meets with the SSTA to negotiate appropriate and realistic timelines for changes to National 5 qualifications”.

The SSTA is aware that there are other subject have been impacted in a similar way and has written to the Deputy First Minister and SQA on the matter. We are awaiting a response. The SSTA is due to meet the Deputy First Minister on 21 June and a report will follow.

Benchmarks

Education Scotland published Benchmarks for all subjects in March 2017. The SSTA had concerns with the process of consultation but many members have welcomed them at this time. Numeracy and Literacy will be reported in the National Improvement Framework at S3 in 2018. There will be no report for other subjects.

Education Scotland will be providing exemplifications (to include teacher videos), question and answers, Do's and Don'ts, with an emphasis on Holistic Assessments.

Dissemination events to be arranged through Local Authorities (including NIF). Teachers are NOT required to use them but are for awareness raising and Inspectors will NOT be looking for Bench Mark evidence during Inspections.

SSTA Advice

- **Members need to ensure that time to review the changes for the new courses and work on Bench Marks are allocated within the Working Time Agreement and other duties are set aside**
- **Any teacher asked to prepare materials or consult with staff should decline the request until adequate time is given by the Headteacher**

Continued on next page

A Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom

The SSTA has consistently maintained that only teachers qualified and registered by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) should be in our secondary school classrooms. This following was reaffirmed at SSTA Congress.

“The SSTA demands that the Scottish Government and Local Authorities respect GTCS registered subject specialists and employ only such teachers to teach and assess all accredited courses. The SSTA also calls on the GTCS to specify the requirements for teachers to deliver new courses which do not have a tradition of teacher training”.

“The Association believes in equity of opportunity for career progression for all teachers. It is unacceptable that teachers who are not qualified to teach RME/RMPS are increasingly being expected to teach this subject. It reduces the value of the subject and can have a negative impact on teachers and pupils. The Association calls on the employer to ensure that only trained subject specialists are used to teach the subject for which they have been appropriately trained and registered to teach”.

The SSTA is engaging with the Government, Local Authorities and GTCS to ensure that qualified teachers are the only people allowed to teach our young people in our classrooms. Therefore, SSTA will challenge any attempts to undermine the position in Scotland.

Teacher Salary Structure

The SSTA has campaigned for a review of the teacher career structure, the levels of responsibility and an appropriate salary. The SSTA reinforced this at Congress

“The SSTA calls on the Scottish Government to promote and incentivise subject specialists with an appropriate career structure thus maintaining subject specialism and enhancing pupil attainment”.

The SSTA will be pushing for a major shift in what teachers are required to do and paid as a respected and valued profession.

SSTA Congress 2017

To see all the speeches and motions passed at the SSTA's 73rd Annual Congress please go to www.ssta.org.uk/congress-2017/

