

## A message from Simon Banks OCR's Qualifications Group Manager for Cambridge Technicals

Welcome to the first Cambridge Technicals update

I'd like to introduce the new Cambridge Technicals update – with this issue being the first in the bi-monthly series.

Its purpose is to keep you updated with all things that are happening with Cambridge Technicals, including the latest on progress with new qualifications, updates to existing qualifications, professional development events available to you and any other useful information that may be worth hearing.

Cambridge Technicals have only been live in centres since September and already we're seeing entries across all of the subjects.

We're confident that we have put in place the best possible administrative and quality assurance framework for these qualifications. However, it is the journey through learning, assessment and certification, and onwards to employment and higher study, for each individual candidate that matters.

We're also keen to hear from you at all stages of the process on what is working well, what needs more attention, and what can be improved. You can let us know your thoughts by emailing [vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

## New IT units and specialist pathways now available

**One of our key aims with Cambridge Technicals is to make sure that they're always current. That's why we've already made the first round of enhancements to the IT qualifications.**

### New units

You now have the choice of extra optional units for the Cambridge Technicals in IT. Available at both [Level 2](#) and [Level 3](#), these include Animation Techniques, Computer Game Design, Database Systems and Web Server Scripting, to name a few. The Level 3 options also include two units from our Cambridge Technicals in Business, giving students the opportunity for cross-curricular work.

### New specialist pathways

We've also introduced three Pathway options to accompany the IT qualification, having already done so with Art and Design, and Media. These options give students the opportunity to specialise in their chosen career path through a combination of selected units. The Pathways available are Business User, Creative, and Technical, and recognition of the specialism will be shown on the final certificate.

### Find out more

You'll find details of the Pathways available in section 3 of the Centre Handbooks:

[Level 2](#)

[Level 3](#)

And it's not too late to sign up to teach for IT. You can sign up at [cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup](http://cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup)

### Get involved

We're dedicated to developing further units and resources that are relevant to your needs. If you're interested in working with us to develop these, we'd love to hear from you. Email: [OCRStrategyTeam@ocr.org.uk](mailto:OCRStrategyTeam@ocr.org.uk).

### What are Cambridge Technicals?

Launched earlier this year, Cambridge Technicals are a new range of vocational qualifications designed for students aged 16+. Available at Level 2 and Level 3, they've been designed to be exciting and inspirational for students.

Subjects include Art and Design, Business, Health and Social Care, IT, Media, and Sport. Developed in partnership with employers, industry specialists and teachers, Cambridge Technicals give students the experience and skills to progress into employment, higher education, or a higher level in further education.

If you're unfamiliar with the qualifications, there's plenty of useful information available at [cambridgetechnical.org.uk](http://cambridgetechnical.org.uk).

### Free resources and a new app

**There are currently over 100 resources available for Cambridge Technicals and we're adding to them all the time.** What's more, they're free. All the following resources are either already available for each of the Cambridge Technicals qualifications or are in development:

- Skills guides
- Rules of Combination (RoC) calculator
- Progress tracker
- Resources links
- Presentations
- Lesson elements
- Delivery guides.

### We'd like to hear from you

We're committed to making these resources as useful as possible and we appreciate the feedback we've already had. We'd also be grateful to hear whether you think what we're producing is useful, and if not, what would be? Please email your comments to us at [resourcesfeedback@ocr.org.uk](mailto:resourcesfeedback@ocr.org.uk).

### New business app coming soon...

Developed by OCR's Resources Development team, the app will support our Cambridge Technicals in Business. It will feature a multiple-choice quiz that gives users the chance to test the knowledge they've learnt on the course. Teachers can choose to incorporate it into their lessons, or students can use it to supplement their learning or to support them during revision.

The app will be free and can be used on an iPhone and iPad as well as on Android devices. When its available, we'll let you know where to download it from.



## Do you qualify for automatic approval?

**If your centre has delivered OCR Nationals, it will be automatically approved to deliver Cambridge Technicals.**

If you're thinking about teaching Cambridge Technicals following this approval, then signing up to teach will give you a great head start. Once signed up, you'll receive a free Welcome Pack that contains a wealth of information to support teaching – including access to online teaching resources from our partner, Hodder Education. Sign up to teach and receive all you need for delivery at: [cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup](http://cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup).

## Professional development events: register your interest today

**If you'd like to find out more about Cambridge Technicals and would be interested in coming to one of our free professional development events, please register your interest now.**

They'll be open to everyone, including people who attended the introductory events this summer, so you don't need to be teaching Cambridge Technicals to come along.

We're planning to announce more details after half term, including dates and locations. The courses will:

- Review the new specification structure, content and assessment
- Review the resources and support available for the qualification
- Provide opportunities to review candidate evidence.

### Register today

Simply go to [www.ocreventbooker.org.uk](http://www.ocreventbooker.org.uk), register your details (if you haven't already) and enter the relevant course code. Alternatively, you can use the link below for the event you're interested in.

Course code: AFTEAD  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in Art and Design: Getting to know the specification](#)

Course code: AFTEAC  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in Business: Getting to know the specification](#)

Course code: AFTEAA  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care: Getting to know the specification](#)

Course code: AFTEAB  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in IT: Getting to know the specification](#)

Course code: AFTEAE  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in Media: Getting to know the specification](#)

Course code: AFTEAF  
[OCR Cambridge Technicals in Sport: Getting to know the specification](#)





## See us at the AoC Annual Conference 2012

The AoC Annual Conference and Exhibition is taking place in November at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham and we're pleased to be delivering some of the breakout sessions.

If you're coming to the conference, you can hear us talk about making the most of new funding flexibilities in 16-19 study programmes. We'll also have a stand number 35 at the exhibition and we'd be very pleased to speak with you if you're coming along.

## Proud to sponsor the TES FE Awards

At OCR, we put recognising achievement at the heart of what we do. That's why we're delighted, once again, to sponsor the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's TES FE Awards, which take place in November.



## Welcome Packs update

We've been asked by some centres why the Welcome Packs don't contain exemplar materials or model assignments, so here's a brief update.

### Exemplar materials:

These aren't available at the moment because the qualifications are so new. Once we have these, these will be made available to you.

### Model assignments:

There are many scenarios and situations in which evidence of achievement could be generated and, for this reason, there won't be model assignments published for every unit. There is one model assignment at each level, and we are considering whether to develop more in the future. However we want you and your students to have the flexibility to create evidence through ways that are most appropriate for students' individual circumstances and preferences. Overuse of model assignments can, over a period of years, undermine the occupational credibility of the qualification.

## There's still time to sign up to teach

If you haven't signed up to teach yet, you can do so now at [cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup](http://cambridgetechnical.org.uk/signup).

When you sign up, you can also select a free Welcome Pack for the Cambridge Technicals subject of your choice: Art and Design, Business, Health and Social Care, IT, Media, or Sport.

## Two new subjects in the pipeline

**Performing Arts and Science are in development with a planned date for first teaching of September 2013.** These are both scheduled to be available at Level 2 and Level 3. Watch future issues of this update for more news and details of the 'sign up to teach' becoming available for these exciting new subjects.



More information about Cambridge Technicals is available at [cambridgetechnical.org.uk](http://cambridgetechnical.org.uk)