

Spring 2019



Introduction

This edition of our news update includes:

- UAS is 35 years old!
- Small changes to our Gateway submission screens
- Case studies from
 - Cape Cabin
 - Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
 - Swindon Advocacy Movement

Celebrating 35 Years of UAS – 1984 to 2019!

This year we'll be celebrating 35 years of UAS (and its predecessor, The Northern Partnership for Records of Achievement or 'NPRA' as it was commonly known) being available to support learners.

If you have any stories or interesting case studies to share with us from the early years, or even later years, of NPRA or UAS, which we could publish in our updates, please do get in touch.

Our longest serving staff member in UAS is our Training and Development Manager, Sue Birch, who joined UAS in 2000 (but who actually joined one of AQA's predecessors, the Northern Examining Association, in 1990!). The whole UAS team's total involvement with UAS when added up in years is 50!

Whilst there have been many changes along the way, most noticeably in technology and the huge range of unit subject areas which are covered now, our commitment to enable 'achievement for all' remains the same.

We wonder who our longest registered centre is!?

A [brief history of UAS](#) can be found on our website.

Case study: Swindon Advocacy Movement

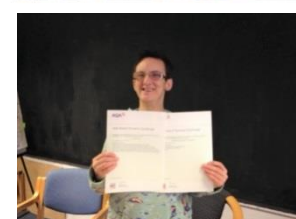
Sally Whitehead, Project Coordinator, says

In November 2018, Swindon Advocacy Movement launched our NatWest funded 'Money Matters' project for adults with learning disabilities. The project aims to help participants gain greater financial confidence, capability and independence through a series of accessible and informal workshops and short courses.

When we were developing the programme we knew that we wanted to be able to offer AQA Unit Awards as a way of recognising and celebrating our clients' achievements.

The Unit Award Scheme helps us to structure our courses and make them more meaningful for our clients. So far we have awarded certificates on everything from basic coin recognition through to more challenging independent shopping and budgeting skills. As the project progresses we are hoping to write our own units to suit individual needs, and now we're a registered centre we have plans to start using the scheme across future projects too.

The difference the UAS certificates have made to our participants is enormous and has given them a great sense of achievement and pride. One of our key aims with the project is for our clients to build their self-esteem and sense of well-being around 'Money Matters' and the AQA Unit Award Scheme really enables us to do this effectively!



See the photos of some clients with their certificates!

Protection of your data files

As part of our adherence to GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) we take care to safeguard your data sent to us, eg on Claim forms. As an extension of this, AQA is also asking all centres to password protect media files, eg USB memory files, before submission to us. Therefore, if you are submitting any sensitive data to us, eg evidence, via a media file, please ensure you password protect (or encrypt) the file.

Case study: Cape Cabin

Jennie, Helen and Sam work at Cape Cabin in the heart of the National Forest and have told us how they use UAS with learners

We are a new Alternative Education Provision. We're building up steadily with groups of Key Stage 2 and 3 students attending regularly, which for them is progress in itself! They are really encouraged and motivated by the Unit Award Scheme as it gives them a lovely sense of achievement, massively boosts self-esteem and is enabling children who had really struggled in mainstream settings, to see purpose and fun in learning. The breadth of units available makes the scheme accessible to curious and enquiring minds, rewarding a whole range of talents and abilities, which is SO important to any child and can pave the way for future qualifications, achievement and positive thinking. More schools need to become involved in the Unit Award Scheme!

It really is lovely to see the look on disenchanted teenagers' faces; when we have a discussion session, they complete a pack of task sheets and are then told that they have successfully completed outcomes to qualify for a unit award! Parents are also very interested to hear about the Scheme and its motivational impact.



The Summary sheet – our ‘must have’ form!

One of the changes to UAS which we introduced last year concerning the removal of the teacher checklist as separate evidence, and it being replaced by evidence on the Summary sheet, ie a date, has caused confusion for a few. Some Coordinators have misunderstood this, thinking that we now only require the Summary sheet as evidence for those outcomes assessed by observation, discussion or communication (ie which used to be evidenced on the old teacher checklist) and not for other outcomes where there is evidence which is available for inspection.

Unfortunately this is not the case. A Summary sheet must be completed for each unit, as before, and must cover all outcomes, as before. The only difference is that it now doubles up as evidence (ie through the insertion of a date) for outcomes assessed by observation, discussion or communication, thereby avoiding the need for the separate teacher checklist which did the same thing.

Please therefore ensure

- that anyone teaching a unit prepares and then completes a Summary sheet for each unit, and each outcome, as the outcomes are achieved, no matter what the evidence is

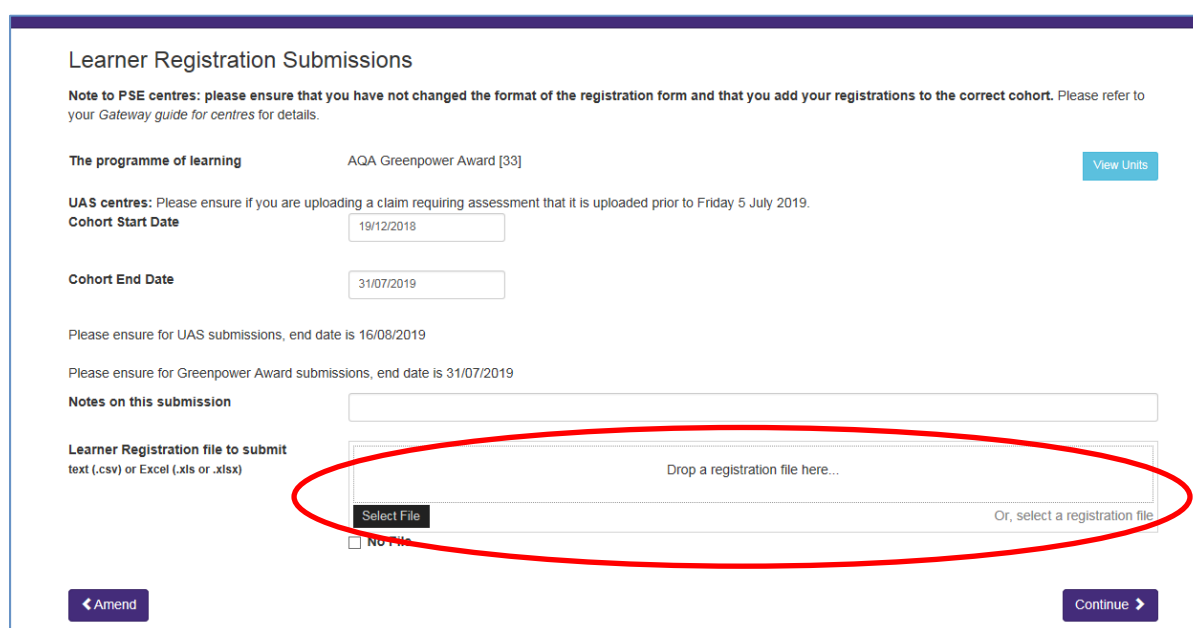
and

- that the Summary sheet is included as part of the formal documentation which we need to see when you submit claims for the award of units to us which we are also checking/assessing, ie it should form part of the documentation you send us (along with any supporting student completed work or photographs, depending on unit evidence requirements) if we are checking/assessing your very first or second claim, or if we are carrying out your annual monitoring.

Thank you.

Changes to our Gateway submission screens

When uploading claim forms, some of you may have noticed that there's been a small change to the Learner Registration Submissions page. It is now possible to drag and drop your claim form straight onto the page. There is still the option to select a file if this is preferred.



Learner Registration Submissions

Note to PSE centres: please ensure that you have not changed the format of the registration form and that you add your registrations to the correct cohort. Please refer to your Gateway guide for centres for details.

The programme of learning AQA Greenpower Award [33] [View Units](#)

UAS centres: Please ensure if you are uploading a claim requiring assessment that it is uploaded prior to Friday 5 July 2019.

Cohort Start Date 19/12/2018

Cohort End Date 31/07/2019

Please ensure for UAS submissions, end date is 16/08/2019

Please ensure for Greenpower Award submissions, end date is 31/07/2019

Notes on this submission

Learner Registration file to submit
text (.csv) or Excel (.xls or .xlsx)

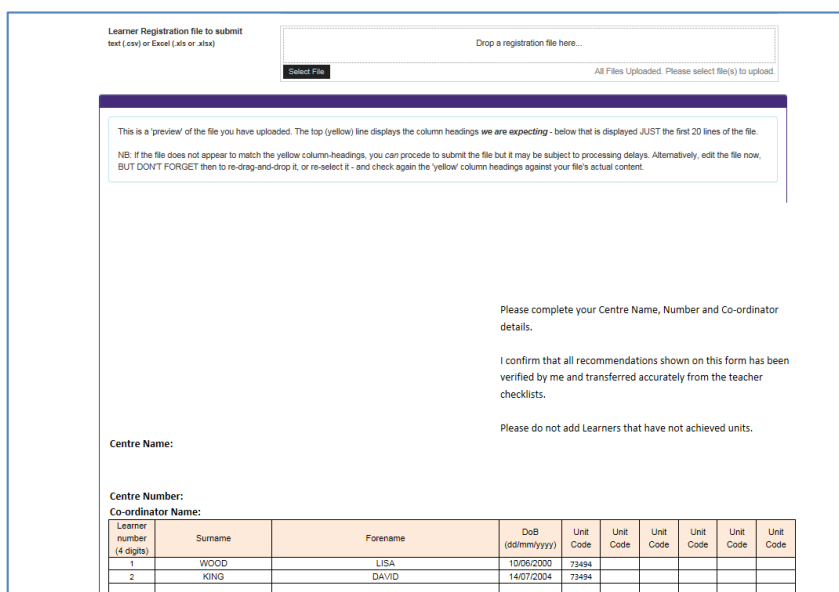
Drop a registration file here...

Or, select a registration file

☐ No file

[Amend](#) [Continue](#)

Once uploaded, it will automatically display the first 20 lines of your claim.



Learner Registration file to submit
text (.csv) or Excel (.xls or .xlsx)

Drop a registration file here...

All Files Uploaded. Please select file(s) to upload.

This is a 'preview' of the file you have uploaded. The top (yellow) line displays the column headings we are expecting - below that is displayed JUST the first 20 lines of the file.

NB: If the file does not appear to match the yellow column-headings, you can proceed to submit the file but it may be subject to processing delays. Alternatively, edit the file now, BUT DON'T FORGET then to re-drag-and-drop it, or re-select it - and check again the 'yellow' column headings against your file's actual content.

Please complete your Centre Name, Number and Co-ordinator details.

I confirm that all recommendations shown on this form has been verified by me and transferred accurately from the teacher checklists.

Please do not add Learners that have not achieved units.

Centre Name:

Centre Number:

Co-ordinator Name:

Learner number (4 digits)	Surname	Forename	DoB (dd/mm/yyyy)	Unit Code	Unit Code	Unit Code	Unit Code	Unit Code	Unit Code
1	WOOD	LISA	10/06/2000	73494					
2	KING	DAVID	14/07/2004	73494					

Case study:

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Mark Cowling works in Community Safety and has let us know about their 'Firebreak' programme and UAS

Firebreak is a direct intervention programme we run on stations across Essex that involves some of the same training exercises used by fire fighters, such as hose drills, parade in uniform, and first aid. As well as learning about fire and road safety, the participants improve their team working and sense of self-worth.

For over ten years, the AQA Unit Award Scheme has enabled us to recognise the achievements of those completing our Firebreak scheme. As Firebreak has expanded to assist an ever-wider range of individuals, from young people with learning difficulties to adult offenders, the UAS has proven flexible enough to support this growth.

Every learner who finishes the Firebreak course provides feedback via a questionnaire. It is common for individuals to mention the certificate they will receive and their sense of accomplishment. Many of our Firebreak participants have struggled in formal education and may even have left school without qualifications. The UAS allows them to demonstrate their potential.

We have held several Firebreaks for young people not in employment, education or training. Along with assistance from our partner agencies, several individuals who have completed these courses have successfully found work or further training. The feedback we have received, along with pledges to fund more Firebreak courses, has mentioned the skills developed and recognised in the UAS certificates and how this has been an important part of the individual's progress.



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