



Rewarding skills, inspiring futures

NEWS

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Training 2000 strengthens opportunity to achieve full ATA VDA



Training 2000, in Blackburn Lancashire, has become the second organisation to be approved by IMI Awards to offer the full Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) Vehicle Damage Assessor (VDA), joining Thatcham's two assessment centres in Berkshire and Nuneaton.

Paul Whiteside, Automotive Centre Manager at Training 2000, said; "We are proud to be the first centre outside of Thatcham to offer the full ATA Vehicle Damage Assessor (VDA) and meet the very high standards required to deliver the accreditation programme. As the current holders of the Bodyshop Magazine Education Award, our automotive facilities are amongst the best in the country and we believe that the delivery of all Bodyshop ATA routes, alongside our apprenticeships and technical training, offers employers a high quality lifelong learning package."

The addition of Training 2000 will strengthen regional access to ATA VDA accreditation centres, increasing the opportunity for Vehicle Damage Assessors to achieve ATA, which is a major focus of

the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) who regulate the scheme.

As well as these two organisations that now have approval to offer full ATA VDA, IMI Awards now has 19 regional assessment centres which are approved to offer the online theory test (Part A) for ATA VDA accreditation.

To achieve accreditation, Vehicle Damage Assessors must pass the online knowledge test before attempting the practical assessments. To be eligible for accreditation, a Vehicle Damage Assessor must have at least five years' industry experience with a minimum of two years' experience in an appropriate role.

TRAINING 2000

IMI Awards gives ATA stamp of approval in Cyprus



KEKMA Training Limassol recently opened a purpose-built satellite facility in Nicosia, Cyprus, where they now offer ATA Air Conditioning Refrigerant Handler, making KEKMA the first ATA approved centre in Europe outside the UK and Ireland.

KEKMA has been associated with the IMI Group since 2003 when they gained approval to offer the 600 series of qualifications at their main training facility in Limassol. Since that time, KEKMA has obtained approval to offer IMI Awards VRQ Technical Diploma and QAA (Quality Assured Awards). Gaining this latest approval allows KEKMA to offer the ATA Air Conditioning route to automotive technicians in the region. With just over a year before the European F-gas Regulation EC842-2006 and annex EC307/2008 is enforced, this new approval provides a very timely addition.

Local technicians were presented with ATA photo ID cards by Alan Mackrill, Executive Director, and Steve Longworth, Chief Verifier, from IMI Awards at a special ceremony to celebrate the approval and the opening of the purpose-built facility in Nicosia.

An interview with...



Qualifications Development Manager Rob Gray, who joined us in January 2009, speaks to **IMI AWARDS NEWS** about his role and the forthcoming challenges.

Personal profile

Rob became an apprentice at a VW dealer in 1986. Now married with three children, he has worked up through the dealership route including VW, Volvo, Peugeot and BMW. Rob took his first teaching job in 2001 at Stephenson's College in Coalville, progressing on to West Suffolk College for a four year stint.

He joined the Institute of the Motor Industry Sector Skills Council (SSC) in 2008 working on ATA development. Moving over to IMI Awards, Rob can apply his knowledge and industry experience to this pivotal organisational role.

Q What do you think are the biggest challenges facing IMI Awards in the next 12 months?

A Managing the change from the National Qualifications Framework to the Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF) will be the major challenge. Gaining a thorough understanding of the new QCF and population of the databank with relevant fit-for-purpose qualifications is going to be a major part of my role. Also the anticipated Level 2 and Level 3 NVQ/VRQ replacement qualifications – mainly as we are reliant on the development of the units in conjunction with other awarding bodies and the SSC. What I can say is that we are facing considerable change over the next year or so.

Q What can our centres do to prepare for the new framework changes?

A Keep up-to-date with current developments, either via our and the SSC's website and various newsletters. We will also be running network meetings again later in the year, so it is important you send an appropriate representative to these.

Q Where is IMI Awards with the Entry Level qualification?

A The Entry Level qualification, which is aimed at 14-16 year olds, is available as an Award, Certificate and Diploma and based on the new QCF. The learner will require to complete a mixture of mandatory and optional units.

These units have been uploaded to the QCF, accredited by QCA/Ofqual and are now listed on the NDAQ. We are running four regional Summer Seminars to provide more information about this qualification. (See back page for booking details.) The reference numbers are listed in this newsletter's *Qualifications update* story.

Q How will IMI Awards be supporting the network during the forthcoming changes?

A The Qualifications Development Team will be on hand to answer any queries that may arise. As always, you can ask your External Verifier who will help and offer assistance where possible.

REMEMBER: IMI Awards approved centres can keep in touch with the very latest information about qualifications, meetings and workshops by visiting our Centre Noticeboard page at imiawards.org.uk

Welcoming our new centres

There have been some new additions to our approved centre network since the last publication (Nov 08), taking the new total to 470. IMI Awards welcomes the following centres to our expanding network:

ATS Euromaster
 Auto Repair Refinish Training
 Automotive Training Academy UK Ltd
 Barking College
 Business Measures Ltd
 Central Sussex College
 City College Brighton & Hove
 Coleg Gwent – Newport Campus
 Evolution Road Training
 Kingsway Consulting Ltd
 Motor Cycle Training Centre –
 HMP Wandsworth
 Motorclimate UK
 Novus Training Solutions

Oaklands College
 Pro Assess
 ProAuto Citroën ATA
 South Leicester College
 Sprint Motorsport Ltd, Sheffield
 Stratford upon Avon College
 The Marsh Academy
 Top Tec Training Ltd, Derby
 Trinity Solutions
 University of Cumbria
 Van Hee Training
 VT Training (VWG ATA)
 VWG Apprentice Programme
 Wolds College



Lord Young opens IMI Awards centres

This Spring, Lord Tony Young, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, attended the opening of two IMI Awards approved centres, Central Sussex College and the College of North West London, outlining the Government's commitment to invest in training for the sector.

Central Sussex College

On 25 February, during Apprenticeships Week, Lord Young cut the ribbon on a brand new workshop which has been designed for Central Sussex College's Ford engineering apprentices.

Lord Young was given a tour of the workshop, which has been developed in collaboration with training provider Skillnet Limited, who manage the Ford Masters Apprenticeship Programme (FMAP). IMI Awards approves and quality assures centres that deliver qualifications for the FMAP and recently gave Central Sussex College the stamp of approval for this dedicated workshop. Lord Young said; "Apprenticeships Week highlights the crucial contribution apprentices have made to the economy. Central Sussex

College, Skillnet and Ford UK have made a collective investment that shows what can be achieved by learning providers and employers working together."

Speaking at the event, Mike Willis, Principal of the Ford College, said;

"The Ford Masters Apprenticeship Programme is an exciting route into the modern, high-tech working environment of today's dealership workshops. New vehicles depend on highly sophisticated technology and require servicing by technicians with the advanced skills and knowledge provided by this programme."



Vehicle Repair Award (Body & Paint), Charlie Hull.



Auto Mechanics Award, Oscar Prendeville.



College of North West London

After £13m of investment, the new Telford Building at the Willesden site of the College of North West London was officially declared open by Lord Young on 25 March this year.

At the opening, Lord Young, who himself studied at the centre fifty years ago as an apprentice telephone engineer, said; "The partnerships the College of North West London have with local employers are what make colleges able to respond to their needs. Companies who don't invest in skills training during a downturn are far more likely to fail than those who do."

For the opening, the Minister got behind the controls of a JCB digger and was shown how to grab away a curtain stretched across one of the shutter doorways of the ground floor automotive workshops.

IMI Awards offers a variety of qualifications at the college, from light to passenger carrying vehicle disciplines. The extra high ceilings of the new ground-floor automotive workshop means the college will be able to bring Heavy Goods Vehicle courses back to the Willesden site and expand them, as there is now room to park double-decker buses. These courses are currently being run off site in partnership with bus operator Metroline.

Directly opposite the Telford Building, the centre boasts a dedicated vehicle paint and body repair workshop, which also offers IMI Awards qualifications specific for this area.

The college also held their skills competition on 25 March, which showcased their endeavours with an eye on the World Skills London event in 2011. The winners were invited to a formal ceremony on 1 April. Winners in the automotive category (shown left) were Oscar Prendeville (19) for Auto Mechanics and Charlie Hull (19) for Vehicle Repair (Body & Paint), who were presented with IMI Awards trophies and will now go on to participate in the next round of the competition.

Tim Bury, Head of the School for Automobile Engineering, said;

"The whole day and the competitions went well, it motivated the learners. It was also part of the drive to find UK winners for the 2011 Skills Olympics and followed the From Competence to Excellence Expert Class programme we have been delivering as part of the Government initiative. We are hoping our winners will progress further in future competitions."



TTS launch new body repair facility

Transport Training Services' (TTS) Body Repair Training Centre has opened state-of-the-art training facilities in Northern Ireland. The facility allows local technicians to benefit from modern training facilities and equipment without the expense of travelling to other centres in the UK.

"We spent a lot of time speaking to employers before we invested in the facility," says Sean McCullagh, Managing Director of TTS.

"We knew there was a need for high quality technician training, but had to be sure that our building and the equipment we purchased would be relevant to the industry today and for the future. The result that we have is a facility giving apprentices and experienced technicians training in new equipment, better working practices and more efficient processes."

The facility was officially opened by Alan Mackrill, Executive Director of IMI Awards, and attended by over 60 representatives from local bodyshops, the Retail Motor Industry, DEL and various trade suppliers.

Sean McCullagh and Michael Kerr, Business Development Director, of TTS, addressed the guests; "It's great to see such investment by TTS in this current economic climate which will benefit the local environment and wider community, not only in attracting capable youngsters into the industry and giving them a firm

firm foundation on which to build their automotive career, but also to provide adult upskilling. There is no question these wonderful facilities, and the work which TTS are doing, will play a major role in driving the skills agenda forward ensuring a strong credible retail motor industry of the future."



Thanks for your feedback

2008 annual survey

We had an excellent response rate to the survey. Over 50% of our centre network responded, with 88% of the respondents stating that overall IMI Awards either continued to exceed or fulfil their expectations completely.

Feedback regarding speed of service you receive from IMI Awards staff for things such as enquiries, registrations and certificates was very positive. 62% said we responded extremely promptly, 33% said it was acceptable, the remaining 5% saying it needs to improve.

Responses regarding our qualification offering were generally positive with the majority of the centres stating VRQs and S/NVQs to be excellent or good.

With our new Qualifications Development Manager now in place, we will be working on both current and new qualifications in preparation for the revised National Occupational Standards.

Despite great feedback overall, rest assured we will not sit on our laurels. We received plenty of ideas on how we can improve further, particularly where we do not match expectations.

The majority of constructive feedback was concerning online registration, particularly reporting, website structure and navigation. We also received very similar feedback at our regional network sessions and are working towards solutions as they are clearly frustrating to many of you.



Regional network meetings

During the last three months of 2008 and early 2009, IMI Awards held 17 meetings around the UK where over 200 centres and 350 attendees participated in our regional network meetings.

A variety of topics were discussed including who's who at IMI Awards, ATA, online systems and website updates. You can download a copy of the presentation from these meetings, which is available in the centre area of our website under the secured operations manual section. There was also an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback during a syndicate exercise and an open forum

session at each meeting. These yielded similar feedback to those raised in the annual survey.

We are working to improve all of these areas and others. We are planning website development, including links to learning resources for candidates.

We will also be launching a new web-based registration and certification system which negates the need for Citrix, which we know has caused issues at many of our centres. In addition, we are investing in our online testing system which will undergo development in the near future.

You will see improvements in many of the areas we have received feedback on, some in the next few months, others will take a little longer. We will keep you updated, particularly if they require planning.

This will be done through our regular centre e-mails, the website and **IMI AWARDS NEWS**.



The IMI Awards team



**Keeping
in touch**

**Take note of our new numbers,
services and updates:**

 **01992 519 038**

...is IMI Awards' new telephone number.
You can still reach us on the old number (01992 511 521), as calls will be re-routed, but our new number helps us to direct your calls more efficiently. Of course you can still contact your External Verifier.


 **07827 857 934**

...is for online assessment out-of-hours support, created in response to your requests for extra assistance outside office hours. John Buchanan will be available to help Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5pm to 8pm. After July 2009, the service will be available Monday to Friday from 5pm to 8pm.

Please note: this out-of-hours support is for online assessments only. Please direct all other queries to our office on the new number above or your regional EV during normal working hours.

 **E-newsletter
and updates**

Centre co-ordinators should now be receiving regular updates and e-newsletters from IMI Awards. However, we can send these to any staff within an approved centre, so if you wish to receive these directly please contact Jane Allan at janea@imiawards.org.uk. If you are a centre co-ordinator and not receiving these, please check with your IT department who may be blocking these as junk or spam.

 **The noticeboard at
imiawards.org.uk**

Don't forget that the noticeboard is kept updated on the centre area of our website. Here you will find dates for any forthcoming meetings and workshops, information on qualification updates and general guidance for our centres.

Summer Seminars

IMI Awards will be hosting four Summer Seminars in July for our approved centre network. The sessions will provide updates and information on a variety of hot topics, with a focus on our new Entry Level 3 (FLT) qualification.



These seminars, which are free of charge to our approved centres, will take place on the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday 1 July** IMI Awards – Fanshaws, Hertfordshire
- Thursday 2 July** Bridgwater College – Bridgwater, Somerset
- Tuesday 7 July** Kirkdale Industrial Training Services – Brighouse
- Wednesday 8 July** Stephenson College – Coalville, Leicestershire

To book, simply download and complete the booking form on the website noticeboard or contact **Cheryl Kennaird** on **01992 519 038** or e-mail cherylk@imiawards.org.uk. Space is limited, so please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment.

Qualifications update

Extensions

IMI Awards has been advised by both Automotive Skills and Go Skills Sector Skills Councils that there will be extensions to all Technical NVQs and VRQs (offered by IMI Awards) until 31 December, 2010.

We are still awaiting information regarding extensions for Automotive Skills Sector Skills Council SVQs which are due to expire on 31 July, 2010.

OFQUAL has informed IMI Awards that the Assessor and Verifier Units will be extended to 31 December, 2010.

Customer Service NVQs Levels 2 and 3 have been extended until 31 July, 2010. We are still awaiting confirmation regarding the Customer Service VRQs.

We will keep our centre network updated via our website and e-mail updates with confirmation of, or changes to, these dates.

New Entry Level Qualifications

The new IMI Awards Entry Level Award and Certificate for the Introduction to Vehicle Technology Entry Level 3 (QCF) have been accredited by QCA/Ofqual and are now listed on the National Database for Accredited Qualifications (NDAQ) under the following numbers:

500/6142/2 - IMI Awards Entry Level **Award** for the Introduction to Vehicle Technology (Entry 3)

500/6133/1 - IMI Awards Entry Level **Certificate** for the Introduction to Vehicle Technology (Entry 3)

We are still awaiting the number for the **Diploma** and will advise you of it via the e-newsletter and the noticeboard area of the website.

We will be uploading the qualifications and assessments material for the Award, Certificate and Diploma of this qualification to our website in the coming weeks, in the meantime the overall structure is available on the NDAQ website listed under the above qualification reference numbers.