

EDSQ or DFSQ?

Choosing the right approach
to improving digital literacy



Introducing the panel



John Hamilton



Nazy Mobasser



Debbie Sargeant

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Today's session

Recap of Government policy

FE colleges' perspectives

Support and resources

Expert panel Q&A session



The National Context

National entitlement to fully fund eligible adults with no or low digital skills to enroll on specified digital qualifications at Entry level and Level 1 since August 2020

Only certain qualifications can be used for the adult legal entitlement

IT User Qualifications have been defunded

Essential Digital Skills qualifications are available at Entry 3 and Level 1 for both adults and 16-19 learners

Digital Functional Skills qualifications also available at Entry 3 and Level 1 for both adults and 16-19 learners since August 2023

National standards for Essential Digital Skills



Qualification Group	Digital Functional Skills (DFSQ)		Essential Digital Skills (EDSQ)	
Qualification Level	Entry Level 3	Level 1	Entry Level 3	Level 1
Duration	Between 90 minutes and 2hrs	Between 90 minutes and 2hrs	No time specified	No time specified
	For AO to determine	For AO to determine	For AO to determine	For AO to determine
GLH	55	55	30 – 50	30 – 50
Legal Entitlement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marking Model	Centre Marked / AO Marked	AO Marked	Centre Marked / AO Marked	Centre Marked / AO Marked
What needs to be covered over time	All Subject Content Statements (including bracketed) over assessment series	All Subject Content Statements (including bracketed) over assessment series	All Skill Areas	All Skill Areas
			Not all skills statements within a skill area	Not all skills statements within a skill area
Adaption Permitted	Yes	No	Yes	No
Funding approval for 14-16?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Funding approval for 16-19?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Funding approval for adults?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

New City College

A Dynamic, Successful And Innovative College

Helping students achieve their future career goals and ambitions, look beyond today, and reach their full potential.



Nazy Mobasser
Deputy Group Curriculum Director: IT/Computing

About Us

- One of the largest colleges in the country
- An innovative further education college with campuses across east London and south-east Essex; Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Redbridge, Epping Forest and Havering, Westbourne Academy Bournemouth
- 27,422, (8,890 16-18), 18,419 |AEB & Loan, 113 HE)
- A turnover of over £100million

Early Adapter of EDSQ

- ✓ Respond to government policies
- ✓ Skills Agenda
- ✓ Funding opportunities - legal entitlement
- ✓ Support student's needs with their career aspirations and educational goals
- ✓ Excellent support from Awarding Body

Implementation – Strategic Whole College Approach

Staff Training

Online, face-to-face; use of excellent supporting documents and webinars provided by Gateway Qualifications

Curriculum Planning

Embedded, Standalone, Preparatory courses

Extensive Marketing

Internal (Timely internal progression of current students) & External activities (social media, web promotion)

DFSQ Pilot

Advantages

- ✓ Less marking burden - Level 1 marked by Gateway Qualifications
- ✓ Scenarios include simulated workplace environment/tasks

Challenges

- X Staff re-training/confidence
- X Language barrier - strict exam duration

We will explore this further in the future

Outcome



Inclusive curriculum planning, responsive to skills strategy & local community needs



Enabled adult learners to acquire basic Digital Skills to progress to higher-level courses



Excellent learner feedback

Key Considerations

Which Digital Qualification To Offer

Industry/job market
demand

Local interest and digital
needs **target group**

Funding **Entitlement**

Awarding Body
readiness to support
with Accreditation, Quality
Assurance and support
documentation

Resources inc. Staff
(CPD), Equipment

Embed into vocational
courses

Thank you for your time

Inspiring people to make a positive impact in the world

Debbie Sargeant
Programme Manager Vocational & Digital – Lead IQA EDSQ
& DFSQ

A pioneering education group

Luminate Education Group is a collective of education providers based in Yorkshire with one clear purpose: to make a positive difference to people's lives through genuinely transformative education and training

Our Why!

- **Government Backing:** EDSQ qualifications were a new initiative in 2020, aligning with government skills development goals. IT Users Qualifications we were delivering no longer funded
- **Widespread Recognition:** EDSQ qualifications are recognised by employers and can enhance learners' employability.
- **Flexibility:** The qualifications can be delivered in various settings for different learners.

EDSQ – Our Success Story

- Delivered EDSQ since 2020 to learners of various backgrounds.
- Successfully integrated EDSQ into ESOL IT provision at Entry 3 and Level 1.
- Key Strategies:
 - BKS B Diagnostic Assessment:
 - learners assessed prior to start and allocated class for their level
 - Structured Weekly Lessons:
 - Planned resources delivered in clear, organised sessions – lessons in Google Classroom using resources provided by Gateway
 - Flexible Delivery Models:
 - Leeds Campus: Tailored approach for small cohorts.
 - Keighley Campus: Rolling program accommodating job centre referrals.

DFSQ - Piloting

- Trial of DFSQ Level 1 - Leeds City College - Enfield Centre
- Learners had already achieved EDSQ Entry 3
- Familiarity with Gateway's Surpass Platform
- Benefits of DFSQ:
 - Aligned with existing skills from EDSQ, additional resources available
 - Streamlined assessment process – marked by Gateway (saves time)

Why Choose EDSQ or DFSQ

EDSQ		DFSQ	
<u>Advantage</u>	<u>Disadvantage</u>	<u>Advantage</u>	<u>Disadvantage</u>
Strong foundation for beginners	May not directly address complex workplace needs	Builds upon existing digital skill and develop complex workplace needs	Surpass has timer for candidate exams
Range of assessments available in surpass	Teacher time to mark	Marked by Gateway at Level 1	Invigilated – cannot be teacher
Assessment can be supervised by teacher		Certificates issued promptly	Awaiting results
Teacher familiarity with assessments		Increase in Funding	
		Learners enjoyed the functional tasks in the exam	

What Next!

Introduce DFSQ Entry 3 for 24/25

Roll out DFSQ Level 1 to the Group

Exam Access Arrangements – SEND Team

Increase delivery within the Group

More Staff to deliver – other than Digital/IT Teachers

Support and Resources

☎ 01206 911 211

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Supporting digital literacy with qualifications



Developing basic digital skills

Foundation skills for learners

Preparation for EDSQ and or DFSQ



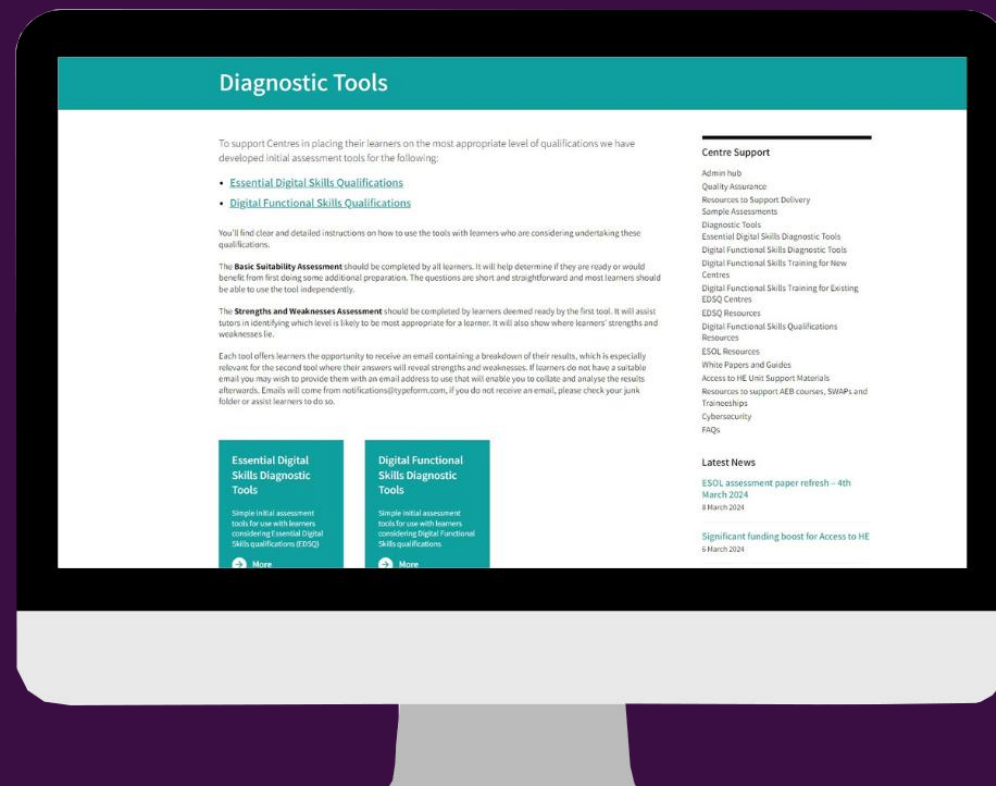
Diagnostic tools

For EDSQ and DFSQ

Includes:

Basic suitability
assessment

Strengths and weaknesses
assessment



Free resources for EDSQ and DFSQ

Guides for Centres and learners

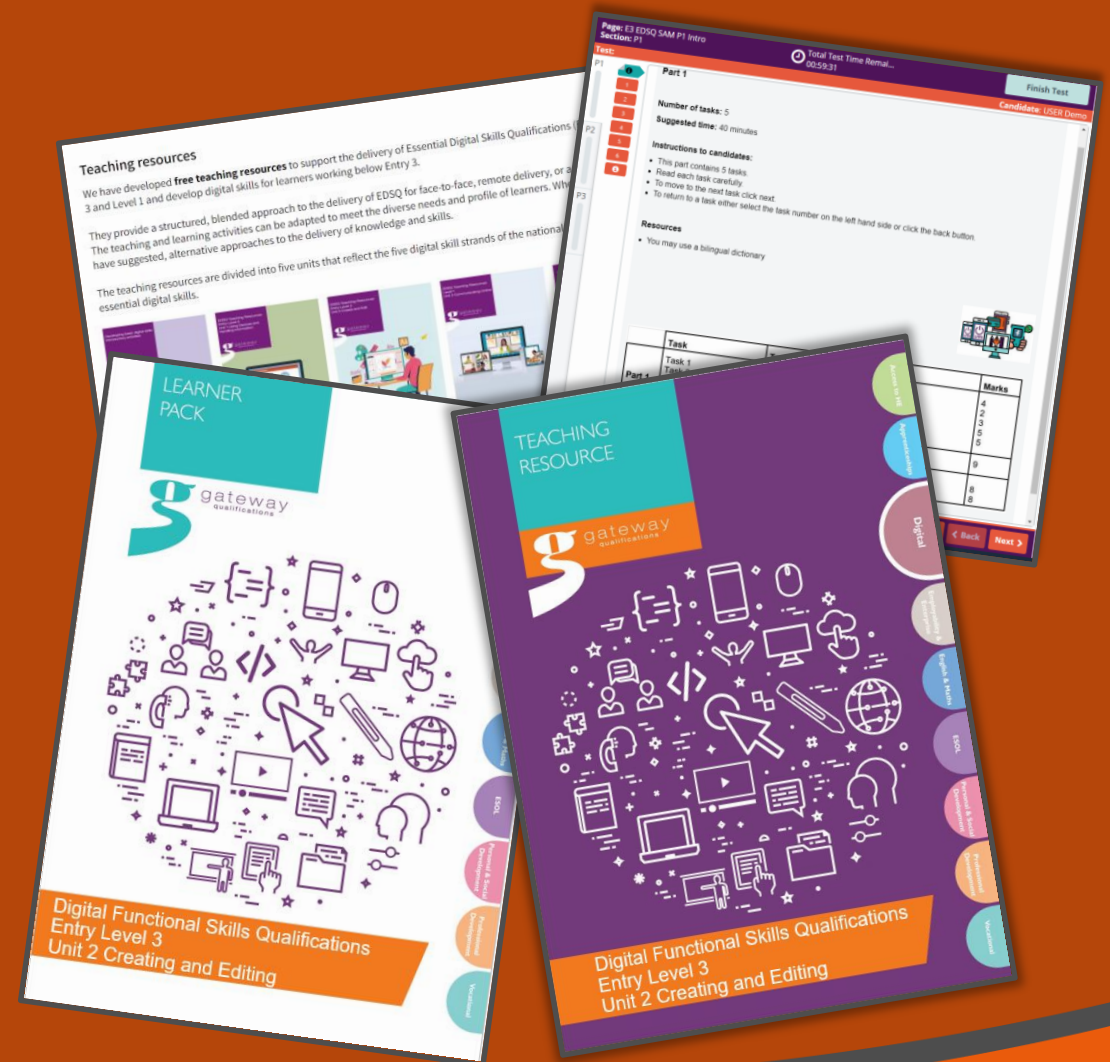
Standardisation materials

Teaching resources cover all strands

Glossary for learners

Webinars and training

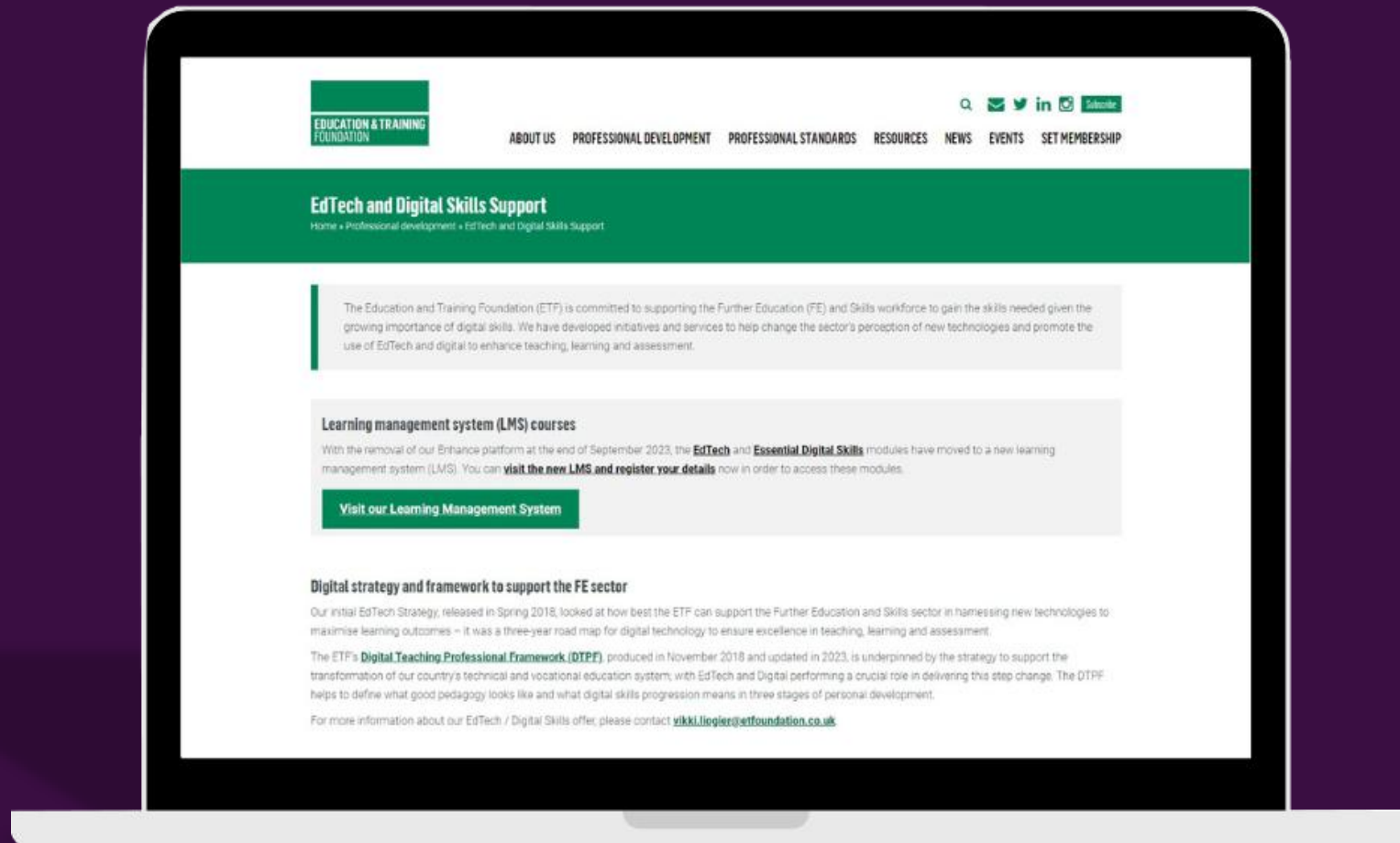
Dedicated EDSQ and DFSQ team



DFSQ resources



CPD for staff



[Essential Digital Skills | Enhance Digital Teaching Platform](#)

Exclusive offer for Gateway Qualifications Centres

Centres approved for Gateway Qualifications EDSQ and/or DFSQ can benefit from an exclusive 20% discount on licence fees for **OneAdvanced** Digital Skills Assessment and Resources.

One of the UK's leading online teaching platforms



Millions of learners improve their skills each year



oneAdvanced



Scan for more info

Contact OneAdvanced
or call 0333 300 3467

New Skills Fund: EDSQ and DFSQ

GLH x Skills band hourly rate

Qualification	2023-2024	2024-2025				
	AEB	SSA	GLH	Hourly Rate	AEB	Variance
Entry Level 3 in Essential Digital Skills	£300.00	6.2	45	£8.40	£378.00	£78.00
Level 1 in Essential Digital Skills	£300.00	6.2	45	£8.40	£378.00	£78.00
Entry Level 3 in Digital Functional Skills	£336.00	6.2	55	£8.40	£462.00	£126.00
Level 1 in Digital Functional Skills	£336.00	6.2	55	£8.40	£462.00	£126.00

Questions?

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