

On the Mark

News from the CIEA

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Welcome to the November Newsletter

Firstly this month, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Stuart Shaw as Chair of the Board of Trustees. We are really looking forward to Stuart joining us and benefitting from his broad experience and knowledge, and to working with him over the coming months and years.

We are also pleased to let you know that we have appointed two new Trustees to the Board. We warmly welcome Janet Crook and Tracey Inverary. Further information about the appointments will follow shortly.

Also, this month we share news of the launch of two new initiatives in the new year; a new Vocational Lead Assessor Support Programme and Special Interest Groups for CIEA members.

As always, we are keen to hear members' thoughts and welcome comments. Share your news by emailing us at administratorciea@herts.ac.uk.

Ali McCree, CIEA Director

CIEA special interest groups

Following on from the findings of a Members' Survey, the CIEA has now hosted three Member Forums (March, July and October 2023). Attendees at the Forums reflected the diverse areas in which educational assessment plays a key role and the range of knowledge and experience held by CIEA members.

The cross-section of Members represented at the Forums indicated a strong level of support for the CIEA's purpose and a willingness to get involved to help develop a community of assessment practitioners.

There was particular interest in establishing focus groups reflecting the special interests of members to provide an opportunity for those working in particular areas (such as FE, HE, Early Years, SEND or as examiners and assessors) to meet and share experiences, expertise and general items of interest related to their fields of activity. As a result, we are now in the process of finalising the structure of the groups and hope to launch a pilot in the new year.

Further details of how to get involved in special interest groups will be provided soon.

Vocational Lead Assessor Support Programme

Learning to lead the assessment of Further Education and Skills Sector teaching and learning.

We are excited to launch our new course, the Vocational Lead Assessor Support Programme, in January 2024. The vocational programme includes the four key modules focused on core assessment theory. The theory is supported by real-life examples supplied by experienced vocational assessors and Chartered Educational Assessors who are based in vocational settings, and the suggested activities are specifically tailored to the FE and Skills Sector context. Please contact administratorciea@herts.ac.uk for further information.

Digital exams

Proposals for some GCSEs to move to digital exams in 2026 have been announced this month. A recently published report by AQA, states that digital exams will help young people develop the skills they need for the future and, subject to regulatory approval, the reading and listening components of the AQA GCSE Italian and Polish exams will go digital in the summer of 2026.



Dr Mick Walker, CIEA President says.

“The AQA report makes a compelling argument for the transition towards more widespread use of technology to deliver high stakes examinations. The use of digital technology to deliver assessments is not new by any means, but a transition from paper-based to technology-based examinations in our schools and colleges offers many opportunities, and challenges. The report makes clear the potential benefits, but also raises some of the challenges we need to tackle such as equity and equality of access, consideration around unfractured and the need for evolution rather than revolution. This report makes a very useful contribution to the debate around the future of examinations and is well worth a read.”

Read the AQA report here >>> [Making it Click: The case for digital examinations in England](#)

Events

[Next steps for England's school system](#)

Thursday 16 November 2023

[Next steps for academic integrity in the age of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Monday 20 November 2023

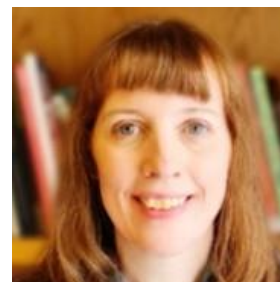
[Federation of Awarding Bodies 2023 Conference](#)

30 November and 1 December 2023

[The future of assessment in England's schools](#)

Wednesday 6th December 2023

60 second interview – Lyndsey Hayes



What is your role in assessment and how long have you been in this role?

I assess students work both formally and informally as part of my duties as A-Level Psychology teacher. I have been teaching A-Level and other further education psychology courses since 2002. I am also a former A-Level psychology Examiner for AQA and a former GCSE Psychology Examiner for OCR.

What are the rewards and challenges of your job?

I find it very rewarding when students say that I have helped them to understand the subject better and feel better able to cope with the demands of studying A-Level, especially when they find the course challenging! The biggest challenge of my job is dealing with misconceptions about psychology! For example, I have had students change subjects because they did not realise how demanding it would be. Another challenge is the annual dumbing down debate in the Media and A-Level and GCSE results day!

What would you change about the assessment and qualifications system if you could?

I would change the GCSE and A-Level assessments from just timed exams only at the end of 2 years to courses where a series of shorter assessments would be given across the 2 years. This is so that students could be assessed on a broader range of skills over a longer time period. This would better prepare them for the demands of university and the workplace. It would also make the courses more accessible to students who are finding education more challenging for academic/pastoral reasons.

Why are you a member of the CIEA?

To find out more about how I can better assess my students and to keep up to date with research into best practice when assessing my students work. For example, the Certificate in Educational Assessment course greatly helped me to better design the CATS Global Schools Psychology University Foundation Programme in 2020. I therefore highly recommend this course to any CIEA members who are required to design courses and/or assessments/exam materials as part of their roles.

CIEA Course Dates 2023 - 2024

Certificate in Educational Assessment

15 Jan - 22 Mar 2024
7 May - 12 July 2024

Diploma in Educational Assessment

22 Nov - 24 Nov 2023
24 Apr - 26 Apr 2024
10 – 12 July 2024

Lead Assessor Support Programme

22 Jan – 29 Mar 2024
22 Apr – 28 Jun 2024

To request an application form email: administratorciea@herts.ac.uk

To find out more about our courses visit our website: <https://www.herts.ac.uk/ciea>



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