

Newsletter • May 2026

AIM Newsletter

— Updates, dates and developments for our Centres



Welcome to the latest AIM Newsletter, back with a fresh monthly update. Discover the exciting new team developments shaping AIM throughout 2025 - 2026.

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Section 01 *On the road with AIM*



Colleagues from across different teams recently attended the Keith Fletcher Awards at the Houses of Parliament, an event held in memory of Keith Fletcher and his significant contribution to education and skills.



Congratulations to all of the winners and runners-up - it was a pleasure to come together to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement in adult learning.

Section 02 *Quality*

Breaking news for Forest School Centres - we have a new suite of Forest School qualifications! The Quality Team shared details with you on 21 April, inviting you to Forest School Sessions to provide an overview of the changes and support moving forward. Got a question? Email quality@aimgroup.org.uk for guidance around the approval process.

We are excited to be preparing for the launch of the **new** Counselling and Forest School qualifications on 1 September 2026. Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding registration and certificate end dates for the current qualifications, which expire on **31 August 2026**. Details of the support pre and post launch of the new qualifications will be shared in due course.

What can we do to support you and your team? Please let us know what support or training sessions would be useful for this year, and to help to prepare for the next academic year. We would love to hear from you – email us at quality@aimgroup.org.uk.



Exciting update - from July 2026

All CPD training completed with AIM will come with an electronic certificate. After your training, you'll receive an email with a secure link to your personalised E-certificate. Certificates can be viewed and shared online, but not downloaded or printed.

Section 03 *Compliance*

A gentle reminder for all Centres - with the increasing risk of AI and cyber-attacks, please ensure your policies are reviewed regularly and kept up to date, including the requirement to notify AIM of AI malpractice and cyber-attacks.



Want to chat about managing the risk of AI?

compliance@aimgroup.org.uk

Section 04 **External Quality Assurance**

As June, July and August are particularly busy periods for EQA monitoring, Centres are advised to request their EQA monitoring in advance. It is important to allow sufficient time between your monitoring date and any celebration events or certificate presentations planned, in case there are any issues, or second sampling is required before certificates can be issued.



Book your EQA monitoring date by Monday 16 June

Required if you need monitoring completed by the end of the academic year for certification.

Please be aware that we have updated our EQA monitoring upload checklist, meaning IV sampling plans are now required to be uploaded to enable us to check that IV sampling is appropriate and proportionate, and ensure that AIM is also sampling an appropriate range.

Training

The Journey to EQA: Elevate Your Assessment and Verification Process

Join us for an insightful training event designed to guide you through the essential stages of the EQA process. Whether you're a new Centre to AIM or looking to sharpen your skills, this interactive session will empower you with practical knowledge on:



Assessment Design

Build assessments that truly measure outcomes.



Assessment Methods

Explore the right techniques to assess each qualification.



Internal Verification

Best practices for consistency and fairness.



External Verification

Learn how to excel in the EV process and meet compliance.



Embark on a journey towards assessment excellence and take your Centre's quality assurance to the next level. Secure your spot today (limited to 20 spaces per session) and take your Centre's quality assurance to the next level.

**JUL
15**

The Journey to EQA

Wed 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM Derby

[Book >](#)

Section 05 **External Assessment**

The June exams are fast approaching. The scheduled dates are:



Counselling

02 June - Tue	Level 4: A Chosen Approach	10:00
02 June - Tue	Level 2: Introduction to Counselling Theory	14:00
03 June - Wed	Level 3: Counselling Theory	14:00
14 June - Sun	All externally marked coursework submissions (Study of Supervised practice, Research proposal, Dissertation)	Deadline



Games, Animation & VFX Skills

16 June - Tue	Core Principles	13:30
17 June - Tue	Case Study	13:30



Results Day: Thursday 6 August

For all of the external assessments above.

Training

How to upload externally marked coursework to XAMS training sessions are now available to book via the AIM website, or via the buttons to the right.

**JUN
04**

How to upload coursework and documentation to XAMS

Online

[Book >](#)

**JUN
05**

How to upload coursework and documentation to XAMS

Online

[Book >](#)

Section 06 **Access to HE**

Access to HE Summer Roadshow - 1 June

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Access to HE Summer Roadshow on 1 June at New College Swindon College (North Star Campus), 10.00-13.00. Providing an opportunity to network with colleagues from other Centres and to ask the AVA any questions, this event will also provide:

- An update on QAA's new licensing conditions for AVAs, helping Centres to understand any impact these may have on their provision
- The role of Access to HE in an ever-changing education landscape
- A review of all the resources available to you and your team to support the delivery of Access to HE, supporting easy navigation
- Introduction to new resources – our new interactive map will be revealed
- Support with planning effective assessments, including methodology and selection of grading sub-components



Access to HE Summer Roadshow

🕒 1 June, 10:00 - 13:00

📍 New College Swindon,
North Star Campus
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1DY

[Secure your place >](#)

Section 07 **Apprenticeships**

On the Apprenticeships front, the following EPA Assessment standards are currently being reviewed:

Data Technician v1.0

Cultural Learning & Participation Officer

Event Assistant

Junior Production Co-ordinator

Digital Learner Designer

Digital Community Manager

Junior Visual Effects

Coaching Professional

Quartz Progress

We're making great progress on Quartz and are now preparing to assess **Data Technician v1.1**, **Data Analyst**, **Publishing Professional v1.1**, and **Broadcast & Systems Media Operator v1.1**. While we are currently awaiting final sign-off, work is already underway to enhance provider insight and support.

New Reports

We have begun producing two new reports for Providers: one capturing feedback from our assessors during standardisation activities, and a second offering valuable updates on grading outcomes, trends across criteria, and pipeline information.



Additional Support

To further support Providers, Zoe, Apprenticeship Coordinator, has developed clear, step-by-step timelines to be used alongside Quartz, helping outline expectations at each stage of the process. In addition, Hollie, Qualification and Assessment Developer, has created a set of engaging infographics for apprentices, designed to help them easily identify where they are within their end-point assessment journey.

We are continuing to strengthen the support we offer apprenticeship providers. If you would like to speak with us about end point assessment or wider apprenticeship support, please contact

businessdevelopment@aimgroup.org.uk or call **0333 034 8833**

Section 08 **Qualifications**

What's new? We've got lots happening behind the scenes, with new and updated qualifications getting closer to launch! **Our Forest School qualifications are nearly ready to go live:**

Level 1 Award in Forest School Ethos and Principles

ready for Qualifications and Standards Review Panel (QSRP) sign-off

[View course >](#)

Level 2 Award in Forest School Assistants

ready for Qualifications and Standards Review Panel (QSRP) sign-off

[View course >](#)

Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders

undergoing minor amendments and will then be ready for QSRP sign-off

[View course >](#)

Meanwhile, work is well underway on **Level 3 Games, Animation and VFX Skills**, with the marking series currently taking place for both the core principles and case study exams. More updates coming soon as these move through the final stages!

Qualification Spotlight: Spark Entrepreneurial Thinking!

Ready to add a dose of enterprise energy to your curriculum?

The AIM Level 2 Award in Understanding and Exploring Entrepreneurship helps learners build confidence, motivation, and real-world enterprising skills- perfect for those heading into work, further study, or self-employment.

Why providers love it:

- **Quick to deliver** – just 3 credits | 26 guided learning hours
- **Portfolio-based** – no exams, learner-friendly
- **Boosts employability & progression**
- **Flexible & inclusive** for a wide range of learners
- **Funded** for 14–16, 16–19 & Adult Skills Fund



Level 2 Award in Understanding and Exploring Entrepreneurship

This is a great way for colleges and training providers to strengthen personal development and enterprise pathways. Get in touch to find out how you can start delivering this qualification.



[Get in touch](#)



Section 09 **Business Growth**



We're delighted to welcome Natalie to the team as our new Marketing Coordinator! Natalie has joined us to support our marketing and communication activities at AIM.



Our current Top 5 Qualifications continue to perform strongly.



These qualifications remain popular choices, reflecting strong demand across a range of sectors:

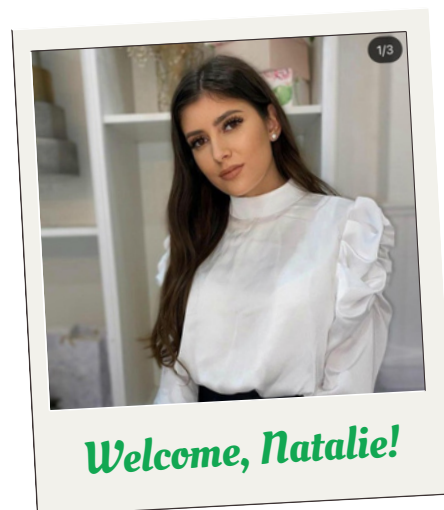
  Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

  Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Working in Transport and Logistics Industries

  Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

  Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Working in Creative and Design Industries

  Level 1 Award in Employability Skills



More Business Growth Updates

- This month, we are processing **25 new Centre applications**, highlighting continued demand and engagement across our Centres.
- What's more, we have **3 new Access to HE qualifications in development**...stay tuned for updates!
- We're also introducing Life at AIM videos, offering a behind-the-scenes look and a chance to get to know us better. You can [view our first video of the series here](#).
- Following renewed demand, we're pleased to confirm that the **AIM Qualifications Level 2 Certificate in Skills for Working in Engineering and Manufacturing Industries (Ref: 603/1786/3)** will remain live and will no longer be withdrawn.

FREE eLearning from Capital Tutorials



Capital Tutorials are offering a range of free eLearning modules, including Recycling & Waste Management and an Introduction to AI. These short courses are a great opportunity to build knowledge and skills at no cost.

Recycling & Waste Management

Online

[Book >](#)

Introduction to AI

Online

[Book >](#)



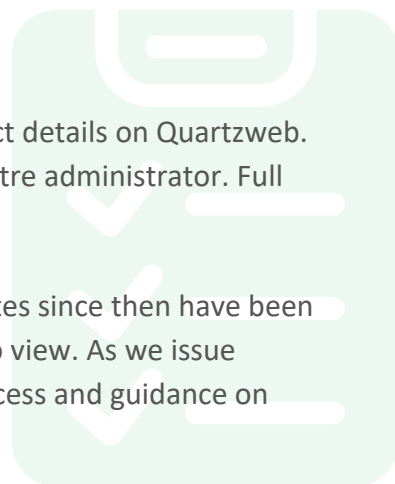
Want to find out more about eLearning through Capital Tutorials? There are over 50 qualifications available.

e-learning@capitaltutorials.co.uk
07711 228069
www.capitaltutorials.co.uk

Section 10 *Customer Experience*

Centres are kindly reminded to check that we hold the most up-to-date contact details on Quartzweb. Contact information can be viewed and updated directly by logging in as a centre administrator. Full guidance on updating contacts is available on Quartzweb under *Resources*.

Our new Digital Certificates platform went live during March and any certificates since then have been issued on our new style certificates and are available on the digital platform to view. As we issue certificates for you on the platform, we will be in touch to ensure you have access and guidance on how to use the platform. **Our Customer Experience Team is here for you.**

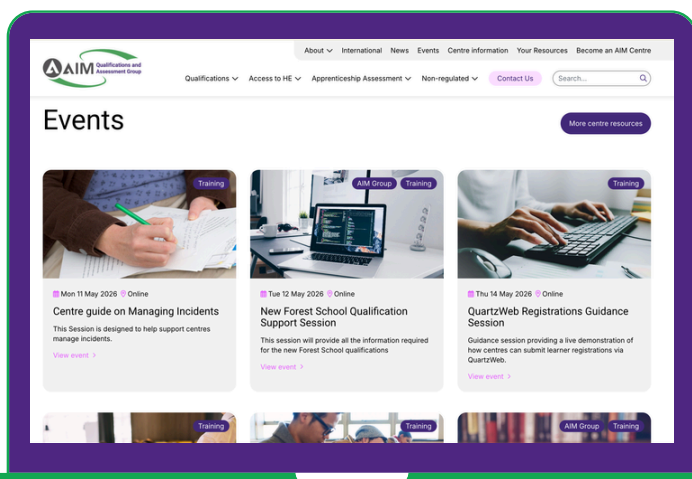


Are your learners planning on attending an Award Ceremony?

If so, do let us know in advance so we can support you in receiving certificates in good time, this Summer. To avoid delays, please ensure enough time is allowed after submitting learner achievements for EQA monitoring, where applicable.



Section 11 *Join our Training & Support Events*



From topics such as AI in Education and Quality Assurance, to networking and drop-in sessions, there are plenty of events for you to attend.

Visit our website [Events](#) page to review our broad range of support/training events and book your sessions today. We look forward to seeing you there!

Section 12 *Support to Centres*

How can we support your Centre with changes to staff and keeping up to date with our processes?

Has a new member of staff joined your team? Let us help to support their induction into AIM qualifications with our bespoke training designed to support staff new to AIM qualifications. Please contact quality@aimgroup.org.uk or acesstohe@aimgroup.org.uk to request your 1:1 training requirements.

How to Contact us

Our team is committed to providing comprehensive responses to your queries within **2 working days**, and where possible, we will direct you to any further support and guidance we can offer.

Quality

quality@aimgroup.org.uk

Centre & Qualification Approval, Policies, Annual Declaration, Quality Assurance.

EQA

eqa@aimgroup.org.uk

EQA bookings, Samples, Reports, Second Sampling, Certification Status.

Access to HE

acesstohe@aimgroup.org.uk

Delivery, Moderation, Final Award Boards, Certification, Late Registration.

External Assessment

externalassessment@aimgroup.org.uk

Administration of external assessments and proctored examinations.

Enquiries

enquiries@aimgroup.org.uk

Registration and claiming certificates for your learners.

Business Development

businessdevelopment@aimgroup.org.uk

Providing dedicated support to Centres, helping explore opportunities, developing partnerships and tailoring solutions to meet your organisations needs.

Section 13 *Your Feedback Matters*

Thank you for reading. We're always keen to hear your feedback. If there's anything you'd like to see included in future editions, please get in touch with Marketing.



Let us know your feedback.

marketing@aimgroup.org.uk