

The importance of the Functional Skills reforms

Christine Edwards QTLS



**Creating
Excellence**

Providing solutions for the
Education Sector

Functional skills: essential for life, learning and work

Functional skills are those core elements of English, mathematics and ICT that provide an individual with the essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively and independently in life and at work.'

QCA 2008



Why do we need the Functional Skills reforms?

- Current specifications in place since before 2007
- 9-1 GCSE Parity
- GCSE Alternative
- Ongoing work force development of maths and English



Main concerns of the reforms

- Additional stretch and challenge
- Phonics
- No dictionaries for English Writing
- More rigorous Speaking and Listening
- Non Calculator section in maths



Whole Organisational Approach

- What is a whole organisational approach?
- Why is it important?
- Ofsted



Early adoption of the reforms

- Benefits to staff
- Benefits to learners
- Benefits to organisations



Initial Assessment

- What does this mean?
- What information do you collect?
- Why is it important?
- How is it used?



Crossover challenges

- Quality Assurance
- Monitoring and tracking
- Testing processes
- Certification



Opportunities

- Review processes and practices
- Targeted staff training
- Review of resources
- Review of data capture
- Review of IA processes and providers
- Review of awarding organisations



Should you wait until September?

- Advantages of early adoption
- Disadvantages of waiting until September

