

What is AQA Unit award scheme?

The Unit Award Scheme (UAS) is a unique recording of achievement scheme, rather than a qualification. It offers learners the opportunity to have their achievements formally recognised with a certificate each time a short unit of learning is successfully completed.

There are no limits on:

- what can be accredited, as long as it is worthwhile and meaningful for the learner
- who can achieve, in terms of age or ability
- how long it takes to achieve or when this takes place
- how learning can be evidenced.

Flexibility is key with UAS, and our motto is 'Achievement for All'. We encourage and support learners to show them what they can do, rather than what they can't.

from AQA website

How do we use the AQA Unit award scheme at Fairfield?

AQA is currently used to get accreditation for the learning achievements of students in Year 10 and 11. It is also used to supplement the ASDAN work completed in Post 16.

There are many units to choose from and as a school we can search and find units that are achievable by all our students. The units can be used for anyone from either the Pre-Formal or Semi-Formal corridor. Some units require students to demonstrate the ability to do activities, but some units are aimed at students experiencing those activities. This means that units can fit into the personalized timetables we are offering students. The units are not just based on academic subjects but include achievements in hydro, rebound, Yoga, sensory story, filming PE, music etc.

For the students in Year 10 and 11 this is their only accredited work – this means as they move to Post 16 they will have qualifications and certificates similar to students of their age in mainstream school. In Post 16 these qualifications are used for subjects that are not currently covered by ASDAN.

It is important that when we are searching for units we think about each student and what they will be able to achieve and what might be an attainable challenge with practice.

AQA Unit award ceremony

Each year we hold our awards ceremony. Parents of Year 11 students are invited in to see their children receive their certificates from the Headteacher. It is a lovely event with singing, an introduction to each child, a presentation by the Headteacher, and a photoshoot. The response has been very positive from parents, who have even brought their children's siblings to see them receive their award.

Each year students have achieved on average 8 awards. We are hoping to continue expanding this number so each student has a large portfolio of achievements.

For more information,
search for AQA Unit awards.

Sam Wadsworth is the current AQA administrator
for our school.

