



Aimhigher...

Introducing the ASDAN Aimhigher Awards and accreditation support

ASDAN is committed to encouraging young people to develop their 'learning to learn' skills. Arising from ASDAN's national Aimhigher activity, and requests from the Aimhigher practitioner network, a series of Aimhigher Award support materials has been developed for use by learners, teachers and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

What are the Aimhigher Awards?

These certificated programmes acknowledge and accredit learning from a range of Aimhigher activities which pupils are involved in, such as attendance at Summer Schools, exploratory visits to Universities and Colleges, and investigation into aspects of student life.

The materials also support the accreditation of activities and exercises outlined in national Aimhigher support publications available to schools and colleges, such as the 'Ladders' project material and the DfES Aimhigher Teachers Pack.

Who are they for?

The ASDAN Aimhigher Award series includes accreditation support for Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5.

What can they lead to?

Learning from Aimhigher activities can earn credit towards the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) at Levels 1, 2 and 3. CoPE is a key component of the ASDAN national Aimhigher initiative to raise attainment, develop more independent and autonomous learners, and assist progression towards widening participation in HE.

**acknowledgement in the Final Tomlinson Report on 14-19 Education Reform (Oct 2004)*

Background

ASDAN's long-established Personal Challenge methodology* encourages autonomous learning styles at all stages of educational development, starting at primary school. There is increasing evidence from users that the earlier such processes are introduced, the more proficient learners become in being able to develop responsibility, independence as learners (and researchers) and confidence in learning to learn.



Internationalism

Internationalism units for Stepping Stones (KS2) and Key Steps (KS3) supporting the DfES Global Dimension guidance have been piloted collaboratively by ASDAN and the International Learning and Research Centre.

The implementation of the Internationalism materials and the Personal Challenge approach features in the Kingswood Partnership 14-19 DfES Pathfinder.

i) Key Stage 2 Aimhigher Award Module

The Key Stage 2 ASDAN Aimhigher module forms part of the ASDAN Stepping Stones Award programme. It is designed to encourage and support the development of more autonomous learning through ASDAN's personal challenge, project planning and presentation methodology.

ii) Key Stage 3 Aimhigher Award Module

The Key Stage 3 Aimhigher module forms part of the ASDAN Key Steps Award programme and has been written specifically to provide certification opportunities arising out of Aimhigher related activities.

For further information on Stepping Stones and Key Steps see the ASDAN website: www.asdan.org.uk

iii) Key Stage 4 Short Course Award (multi-level)

The ASDAN Aimhigher Award for Key Stage 4 is a Short Course (30 or 60 hours) which accredits the learning arising out of a variety of Aimhigher activities including exploratory visits to Higher Education Institutions, attending a Summer School organised by a University/College, or finding out about student life. The credits from this KS4 Aimhigher Short Course can contribute towards the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE).



iv) Post-16 Aimhigher Accreditation support

ASDAN's Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) **Level 3** has been ascribed 70 points by the UCAS Board (10 points more than an 'A' Grade at AS level). It is the qualification outcome for the ASDAN Universities Award, referred to in the UCAS Online Guidance for Applicants (paragraph 3.7 under the heading 'Your Personal Statement').

As a full GCSE equivalent qualification on Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 CoPE is fully fundable as Post-16 provision through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on an equivalent funding basis to an AS General Studies programme.

Accreditation for Aimhigher related activity has been integrated into Level 3 of CoPE; learning arising out of Summer School attendance, mentoring activities, exploratory visits to Institutions of Higher Education (HEIs), for example, can all count towards the achievement of CoPE at this level to aid the process of entry to HE. Such Aimhigher activity in preparation for higher education can now also be separately reported in the UCAS application form and can be taken into account by higher education admissions tutors.

CoPE

The CoPE qualification is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 'B' at Level 2 (46 points).

At Level 1 the CoPE qualification is equivalent to a GCSE Grade E/F (25 points).

Weblinks:

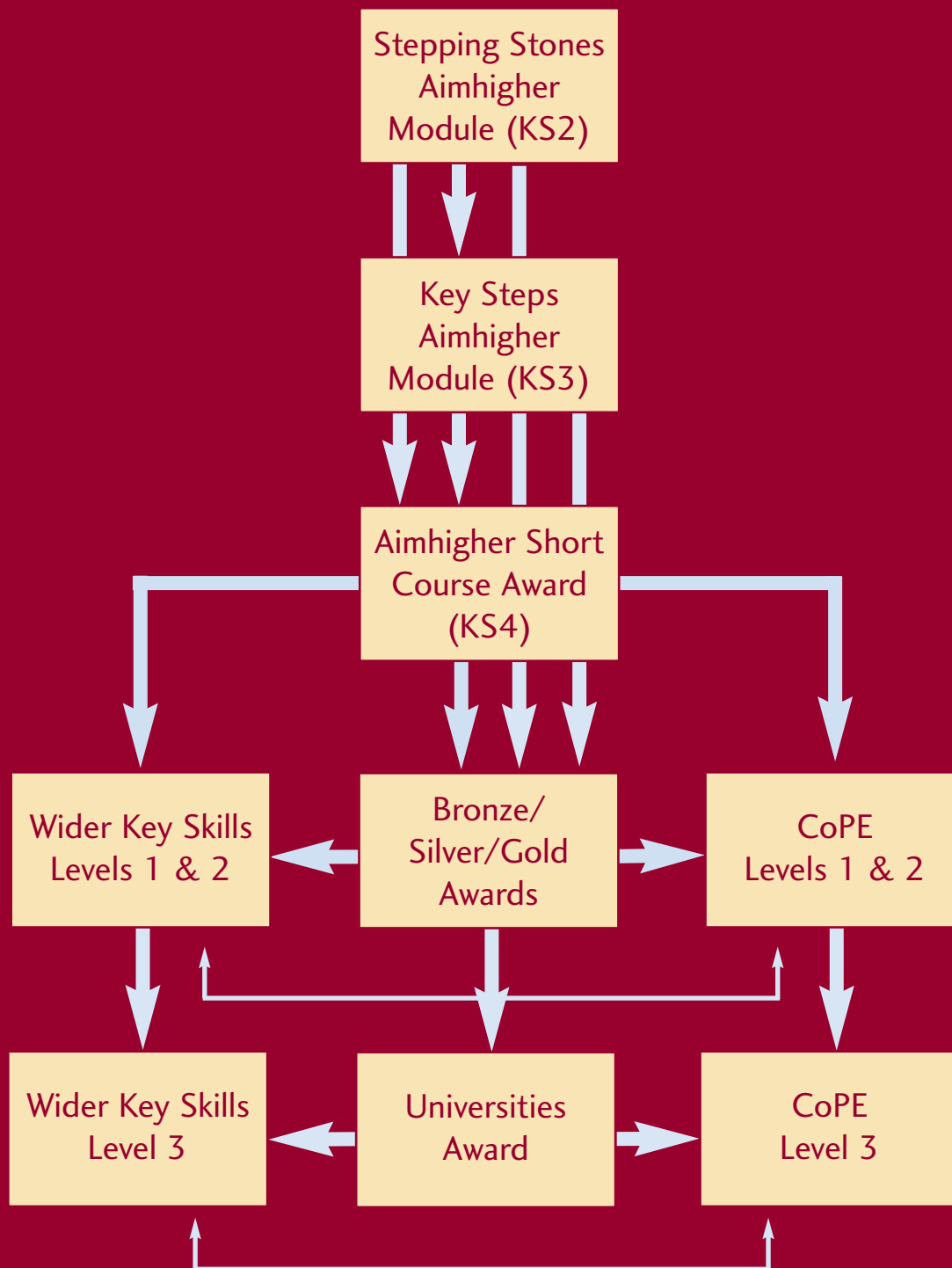
ASDAN Awards and Qualifications:

www.asdan.org.uk

The national Aimhigher Practitioner website details the implementation of CoPE in ASDAN's national Aimhigher activity under the auspices of HEFCE and features information on the London University (IOE) Summary Report of ASDAN's Aimhigher national activity (the report highlights the increases in overall institutional A-C points scores from the use of CoPE in Aimhigher pilot schools/colleges):*

www.aimhigher.ac.uk/sites/practitioner/programme_information/national_projects/asdan.cfm

Progression Routes for Aimhigher Programmes



Aimhigher...

For further information on all ASDAN Aimhigher materials, please visit the website or contact ASDAN Central Office.

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