Newsletter March 2019

Dear Members,

It is an exciting time for the Association and so there is more reason than ever for you to consider joining the Board. Ahead of our Annual General Meeting (to be held at the America Square Conference Centre, London at 8.45am on 11th April) we will hold elections for positions on the Board, vacant by rotation, and you have perhaps already seen my separate email encouraging you to consider standing - just e-mail me a 150 word description and a head shot photo of yourself.

So why is it such an exciting time? Well, to begin with 2019 has seen a fantastic surge in new sponsors. We are delighted to welcome the Welsh assessment regulator Qualifications Wales, NCFE Cache and PebblePad who join City & Guilds, RM Results, Learnosity and DigitalEd as Gold Sponsors this year. It clearly demonstrates that they fully support and lead the development and implementation of e-Assessment as a modern means of assessment delivery. Added to that, we welcome Botosoft, PearsonVUE and TestWe as Silver Sponsors.

Then our Remote Proctoring Special Interest Group has been hard at work to bring you a brand new list of suppliers, helping to share information on who is developing and deploying solutions in this exciting area; and our Mathematics Special Interest Group, whilst still in it's infancy, has agreed a new mission statement and is planning a breakout session for everyone attending the first day of the e-Assessment Question Conference on the 10th April.

Our Awards programme, now in it's third year, attracted a 20% increase in the number of entries, and this year's finalists have just been announced. All of the finalists can be very proud of their achievements and we wish them all the best of luck. Tickets to the Annual Gala Dinner are selling fast, so if you'd like to join us on the 10th April, please do purchase your tickets soon! Please visit https://eassessmentawards.com/ for further details.

And last but by no means least, the eAA is absolutely delighted to be working closely with Jeff Ross and Martyn Roads of Assessment Tomorrow to take over the running of the annual e-Assessment Question Conference and Exhibition from April 2020. We are really excited to have the opportunity to run our own event and need you, our members, to talk to us and give us your thoughts on how you would like to see this event evolve, so please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions via email, or via direct message on Twitter.

Best wishes,

Matt Wingfield

Chairman, The e-Assessment Association

chair@e-assessment.com

Contents

Announcements, news, updates

eAA annoucements this month! Here's a list of all of our latest news, with more information in the newsletter below.

- e-Assessment Awards 2019, sponsored by PSI International. Finalists announced!
- Tickets selling fast for the Annual Gala Dinner on 10 April. Reserve your seats today.
- Save the date: AGM set for 11 April 2019!
- Now accepting nominations for new Board Members
- Brand new information table on 23 Remote Proctoring Solution Providers now freely available on our website.
- Welcoming on board 6 new sponsors for 2019.
- Update on taking over the e-Assessment Question Conference & Exhibition from 2020. We will bring you more information at this year's event and will be asking all our members for their input on how they would like this event to evolve under our stewardship.
- NEW website survey - seeking your views on how we communicate with you.

Bright Future For International eAssessment Conference

by Jeff Ross and Martyn Roads, Assesment Tomorrow

This year the annual e-Assessment Question Conference (www.e-assessment-question.com) takes place in London on the 10th and 11th April.

In its 17th year, the conference is even more relevant today than it was 17 years ago when e-assessment was in its infancy. The event this year promises to be one of the best yet, with key speakers from the industry and a full line-up of exhibitors. It's also a key moment in the conference's history.

The eAssessment Association have always supported the conference as part of its remit to bring together professionals from across the sector. For the past two years this has included the e-Assessment Awards evening which has further helped to raise the status of our industry. So, from 2020, Assessment Tomorrow and the eAA have agreed that the eAA will take over the running of the conference so that it becomes part of the eAA's annual cycle of events alongside the Awards.

Over the seventeen years we have seen lots of change. When we started the conferences it was all about proving that the systems were robust, that e-Assessment offered valid assessment that was more than just automated multiple choice tick-boxing, that it was scalable and could provide real high stakes assessments as well as supporting formative assessment, learning and teaching. Those arguments have more or less been won.

So, at the conference in April will look at issues like multiple item types, gamification, AI, big data, e-proctoring, BYOD and a host of related subjects. We will hear experts and practitioners discuss (and delegates debate!) the latest developments and hear about the latest projects in e-Assessment. We share experience and knowledge about what we have achieved, what is happening now and where we go in the future.

As the founders of the e-Assessment Question we're very pleased that we've come to this agreement with the eAA, and we are confident they will take the event to new heights! We still think the question implied in the conference title is relevant 17 years on. The innovative, imaginative and robust development of e-assessment in that time is reflected in the quality and variety of Award nominations and is a testament to the work of the sector.

But there are still deserts of non-use, not least the main public exams in the UK. Why?

So, as we pass the baton to the eAA, we'll support them in their efforts to build even bigger and better events.

Thank you for your past support – we look forward to meeting you at this year's conference!

Jeff Ross
Martyn Roads

The 2019 e-Assessment Awards FINALISTS ANNOUNCED!

The e-Assessment Association has announced the shortlisted finalists for its international awards programme, The e-Assessment Awards. The winners will be announced at the awards gala dinner on 10th April in central London.

The e-Assessment Awards programme was launched in October 2016 to highlight and celebrate the outstanding and positive contributions that technology makes to all forms of assessment, and has gone on to showcase best practice, research and innovation in the sector.

The Awards programme holds a unique position, as it encompasses all sectors of education; from schools, through further and higher education to workplace training and professional exams.

The six sets of finalists were shortlisted by six separate panels of highly experienced, international experts.

The following have been announced as finalists within the respective categories:

Best Use of Formative Assessment sponsored by NCFE Cache

Cognii for the Cognii Virtual Learning Assistant
Prime Principle Ltd for SIMPLE by Classroom Monitor
Vretta for IntroMath

Best Use of Summative Assessment sponsored by SQA

Eindhoven University of Technology / Cirrus Assessment
Highfield Qualifications
Qpercom for Qpercom Observe
TestWe

Innovation sponsored by Innovate Awarding

Cognii for the Cognii Virtual Learning Assistant
International Well Control Forum (IWCF) for Easy as Pi, with a FORUM HUB
Lexplore
NCFE CACHE for PregnancyVue by CACHE

Best Transformational Project sponsored by RM Results

iCapture Limited for Capture Education
MyKnowledgeMap and Anglia Ruskin University
SATs Companion
telc gGmbH for telc – language tests
The Federation for Industry Sector Skills & Standards for ACE360
The University of Reading

Best Research sponsored by ACER UK

PSI Services for A Comparative Study of Online Remote Proctored versus
Onsite Proctored High-Stakes Exams

Excellence in Export

Laser Learning
RM Results
Vretta for MathemaTIC

Janet Garcia, President PSI International, the Awards' headline sponsor, said:

"The Awards programme once again demonstrates the incredible quality and ingenuity of e-assessment solutions and projects worldwide, and we are delighted to continue to support the Awards because of the value and richness of the shared knowledge that we are able to showcase as a result."

Matt Wingfield, chairman of The e-Assessment Association, continued,

"The Awards highlight those who are making a positive contribution to e-assessment and help share best practice in conceiving, developing and deploying technology enabled assessment in all sectors of education. The high quality of submissions this year is a true testament to the continuing calibre of those within the sector, with the international nature of submissions demonstrating the increasing reach of e-assessment right across the globe. Given the large number of entries, securing a place on the shortlist is quite an achievement in of itself and we wish all the shortlisted finalists the very best of luck."

For more information about the awards, visit www.eassessmentawards.com

Thank you to our Headline Sponsor, PSI
and to all the following supporters of the 2019 e-Assessment Awards

The 3rd Annual Awards Dinner

Drawing from every educational sector, and from every continent, the e-Assessment Awards attracts a huge diversity of projects, and so the evening presents an opportunity to network and learn from one another whilst celebrating the winners of the 2019 Awards.

Join us from 6pm for our drinks reception, sponsored this year by AlphaPlus Consultancy, on the mezzanine balcony overlooking the hotel lobby.

At 7pm, we will move into the main room where you will be warmly welcomed by the chairman of the e-Assessment Association, Matt Wingfield, and Janet Garcia, President of [PSI International](#), our headline sponsor.

The DoubleTree will serve a fabulous 3 course dinner, which will be interspersed with the winner's announcements.

We are delighted to announce that Bob Harrison has kindly agreed to deliver a keynote presentation to set the tune for the evening.

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Dress Code: Smart Casual
6pm Drinks Reception
7pm Dinner and Awards evening
11-11.30pm Close

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tickets on sale now at https://eassessmentawards2019.eventbrite.co.uk

We are delighted to say that, thanks to the support of BTL, we will be filming parts of the evening including recording brief interviews with all of the winners, so if you can't join us, please watch the evening unfold on twitter #eAAwards or look out for footage on our website.

"BTL are proud to support the e-Assessment Association and the e-Assessment Awards. As a leading provider of item banking and secure on-screen test delivery technology, we understand the importance of establishing a strong community that recognises best practice in the assessment sector. The Surpass Community includes over 180 organisations, all working towards the vision of significantly improving the assessment experience for everyone. This journey is fuelled by our passion, creativity and willingness to collaborate; it's important that we celebrate our successes as well as learn from our mistakes, and where better celebrate than the e-Assessment Awards."

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Tim Burnett – Head of Marketing, BTL

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The realities of the skills gap explained

TestWe are one of the new Silver Sponsors of the e-Assessment Association in 2019.

[TestWe](#) is a complete e-Exam solution: a platform for the administration and offline software for learners in K-12 and Higher Education institutions: universities, training centers, corporate universities.

Marie Verchère from TestWe recently sent us a copy of their latest white paper, 'Adapt or Die: The realities of the skills gap explained, and ways to solve it!'

As Marie explains, "*There is a digital skills gap, and Higher Education has the weapons to close it. How? We teamed up with the startup Wooclap to answer the question!*"

You can download the white paper from this link:

[TestWe White Paper](#)

Membership Communications Survey

As you are aware, the e-Assessment Association is growing. We feel that therefore it is a good time to check how we communicate with our members. Please help us by completing the quick survey via the link below.

(disclaimer: there is no free bottle of Prosecco for any member who completes this survey, but our gratitude goes without saying).

[Start Survey](#)

Ask Matthew Poyiadgi, Vice President EMEA at Pearson VUE

As we welcome PearsonVUE on board as a sponsor of the Association in 2019, our Chairman Matt Wingfield is planning to meet up with Matthew Poyiadgi, Vice President, EMEA to talk about the future of e-assessment.

Matthew is well known for speaking on the latest trends in technology and we are keen to gather his thoughts on the exapnsion and evolution taking place in assessment globally.

With this in mind we are keen to enagge with members to see if you had questions that you would like to put to Matthew. If so, then please send your questions to Matt Wingfield and he will do his best to include as many questions from our members as he can in the interview.

Please email your questions (by the end of April 2019) to us with the subject header: "Questions for Matthew Poyiadgi" directly to Matt Wingfield at chair@e-assessment.com

World News Round-up

Brief news round-up since our last newsletter.

- **ENGLAND.** The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in England (Ofqual) release their latest research that, "...confirms that the quality of marking of GCSEs, AS and A levels in England is good, and compares favourably to other examination systems internationally," [Read more](#).
- **NEW ZEALAND.** The Southland Times wrote a positive editorial about the digital NCEA exams refelcting modern-world imperatives, saying, "failures are no small thing, but we should acknowledge the extent to which things have generally gone right." [Read more](#).
- **USA.** The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is going digital exclusively on Microsoft Surface Go tablets. [Read more](#).
- **WALES.** QualificationWales released a Contract Notice seeking the services of a small group of assessment and curriculum experts in January 2019, and followed with a speculative notice to "inform interested parties that Qualifications Wales wishes to award a contract for the provision of services to promote and explain the opportunities available from the use of technology in assessment." [Read more](#).

- **MIDDLE EAST.** RM Results partners with Edutech to provide e-marking services in the Middle East. Read more.
- **USA.** Education Week reported that "Massachusetts students who took state exams online in 2015 scored significantly worse than their peers who took the same exams on paper, according to a new study by the American Institutes for Research." Read more.
- **SCOTLAND.** The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), renews their contract with the Surpass Assessment Platform, confirming its investment in cutting-edge technology for high-stakes e-assessment. Read more

If you hear a great news story, why not get in touch. You can send us a DM on Twitter (**@eAssess**) or email us via **marketing@e-assessment.com**

We also published two new blog posts since our last newsletter. We welcome blogs from all our members. If you would like to submit one for publication, please contact us at the address above.

In case you missed them - links to the recent member blog posts here:

- **Why do we tolerate human over machine error?**
- **The keyboard is mightier than the pen – the future of e-assessment**

AGM AND ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Key information for our members.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on the morning of the second day of the e-Assessment Question 2019 in London, with an option for all members to join the meeting virtually or in person.

Key Dates (all times GMT):

- 5pm Wednesday 20th March - Deadline for nominations
- 25th March - Election commences
- Midnight 8th April - Election closes
- 8:45am Thursday 11th April - AGM and announcement of election results

If you would like to stand as a candidate in the forth coming board elections please send the following to chair@e-assessment.com the deadline above:

- 150 word description about yourself and your relevant experience;

- JPEG head shot photo