

The New Eccles Hall School - Introduction to BTEC's

Introducing BTEC

Over the last 25 years, BTECs have helped millions of people develop the skills they need to get on in life. Engaging and inspiring, these work-related qualifications are suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities.

BTECs give students the skills they need to either move on to higher education or go straight into employment. For instance, a BTEC National Certificate in Business would cover all aspects of business including marketing, law, human resources and accounting

What is a BTEC?

- BTECs are work-related qualifications suitable for a wide range of students, built to accommodate the needs of employers and allow progression to sixth form, colleges and ultimately university.
- They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory.
- They can be studied alongside, or in place of, GCSEs.
- BTECs are recognised by schools, colleges, universities, employers and professional bodies across the United Kingdom and in over 100 countries worldwide.
- BTECs have been around for 25 years and their reputation is second to none.
- They continue to be developed and updated with and for industry and in response to the needs of students. The current BTEC specifications are listed on the QCF.

Why is BTEC important?

- BTECs are understood and recognised by a large number of organisations in a wide range of sectors.
- They offer natural progression along a vocational path, from and to academic qualifications and university.
- BTEC qualifications are developed with key industry representatives and sector skills councils to ensure that they meet employer and student needs.
- Many industry and professional bodies offer successful BTEC students exemptions for their own accredited qualifications.

How does it work?

BTECs are at different levels:

- Entry - for learners to develop confidence and initial skills for either a broad work sector or everyday life
- Introductory (Level 1) - a basic introduction to an industry sector. They encourage development of personal and work-related skills
- First (Level 2) - a more detailed introduction to an industry sector. At this level they encourage greater development of personal and work-related skills
- Nationals (Level 3) - specialist qualifications for students with a clear view of their future career or seeking progression to higher education

The different sizes of BTEC qualifications vary at each level. In general:

- The smallest is the **Award**
- The next is the **Certificate**, followed by the **Extended Certificate**
- The largest is the **Diploma**

The number of units varies according to the design and focus of each qualification. Learners complete realistic work-based assignments, which are internally assessed.

