

# Doing what's right for every student

Centre name:  Smestow School

Region:  Wolverhampton

Area type:  Inner-city

Number of students:  1000

School type:  Academy (part of the Education Central Multi-Academy Trust)

Ofsted rating:  Good (2013)

Pupil premium %:  25%

Ensuring that every student has a positive learning experience by creating a curriculum tailored to their interests and aspirations.

“... we value the BTEC vocational routes our students take, it allows them the ability to not only learn academic skills, but the additional skills to gain work. We are very proud of our students achievements.”

Mr Martyn Morgan, Headteacher

Headteacher Martyn Morgan aims to give every student “the best learning experience possible”, and this is clear in their approach with BTEC qualifications.

In 2015 Smestow School didn't offer a BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care in the Sixth Form. Megan-Louise Hartley was a student at the school who had taken a BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care alongside her GCSEs and wanted to continue with the subject to give her the knowledge she needed to fulfil an ambition to work in family and criminal law. To ensure that Megan could follow her aspirations, the school brought in the BTEC National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care, the equivalent of three A Levels. Find out more about Megan's story in the 'Student Spotlight' below.

For Smestow, giving each student the best learning experience possible means letting them follow the route that suits their learning interests. BTEC qualifications are offered at both KS4 and KS5, with students able to follow an entirely vocational pathway in the Sixth Form, or take a combination of

BTECs and A Levels - whatever best suits their needs and aspirations.

## Student spotlight

Name: **Megan-Louise Hartley**

Megan studied a BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care at KS4, to pursue an interest from her personal life, caring for her disabled twin brother. She then wanted to continue to study Health and Social Care at KS5, so Smestow School brought in the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care to allow her to do this, and to help her gain practical work-place experience in the sector.

In the future, Megan wants to promote equality for those with disabilities like her brother's by pursuing a career in family and criminal law. Having gained a triple Distinction\* in her BTEC, was given an unconditional offer to study Law at Queen's University, a prestigious Russell Group University in Belfast. Having spoken to her about her Level 3 BTEC at an open day, they were impressed with her practical skills and ability to conduct independent research.

“A major reason I have got the offer to Queen's is the Extended Health and Social Care Diploma, which has given me real knowledge of legislation and working with children and young people.”