Introducing the complete suite

BTECs have been leading the way in high-quality vocational education for almost 30 years. During that time we have consistently challenged ourselves to ensure they continue to represent the very best for learners in the progression opportunities they offer. With this latest suite of BTEC Firsts for level 2 learners, we’ve taken into account the skills required of employees in global markets, changes in education policy and feedback from many teachers and tutors delivering BTEC. However, it’s also important to us that we retain what is great about BTEC; high-quality teacher assessment, engaging and relevant content, and clear progression pathways to further study remain at the heart of the BTEC offer.

For schools and colleges

The Award and Extended Certificate sizes offer schools and colleges a motivating, personalised and highly effective vocational option, both alongside, and as an alternative, to GCSEs and A levels. Core science knowledge and skills within the mandatory units help learners gain a deep understanding of a specialist area within the sector, and opportunities for contextualised maths and English ensure learners can practise these essential skills in a meaningful way. There is also a range of optional units to choose from, allowing learners to focus their study on an area of interest or a specialist career path.

Internal and external assessment

One of the most significant developments of the next generation of BTEC Firsts is the introduction of external assessment. Contributing to a maximum of 25% of the overall assessment, which keeps teacher-led assessment at the heart of BTEC learning, this external assessment element provides evidence that these qualifications are assessed to a consistent high standard. For learners, the broader range of assessment methods and the experience of taking external assessment prepares learners for progression to future study.

Unrivalled support

Input from thousands of you during the development has not only shaped the qualifications, but given us great insight into the kind of support you need to embed them. We have considerably expanded our qualification support and I’m delighted to introduce myBTEC. myBTEC is an online toolkit which streamlines BTEC planning, delivery and assessment, giving you more time to spend with your learners. It’s FREE to access for all BTEC approved centres in the UK.

We are extremely proud of these new qualifications and their place in a broad and balanced curriculum for today’s learners. We believe they embody all the quality and rigour that further and higher education institutions and employers demand, and that you and your learners deserve.

Mary James, Head of BTEC, Pearson UK
Introducing BTEC Firsts in Applied Science

The are approximately 5.8 million people employed in science-based occupations. This equates to 20% of the UK workforce employed in science roles. The Applied Science sector has a crucial role to play in delivering growth and allowing companies to compete in a rapidly growing global market.

As a result, there are many exciting career opportunities, including laboratory technician, physiotherapist, industrial technician, sports scientist and paramedic.

BTEC Firsts in Applied Science provide a practical, real-world approach to learning and develop specific knowledge and skills learners need to work successfully in the applied science industry, such as:

- discovering the world of applied science and how it has an impact on our world today
- communication skills to articulate and discuss new ideas or work as a team to solve problems
- health and safety in the workplace and the appropriate procedures and legislation
- how mathematics is essential to applied science success.

Learners will also be able to present their work in a variety of ways, including:

- presentations
- demonstrations.

See pages 5 - 8 for more detail about the structure and units of the BTEC Firsts in Applied Science. Go to pages 18 - 19 to discover how BTECs have opened doors for others.

Qualification structure

BTEC Firsts in Applied Science are available in two sizes to fit within a wide variety of curriculum contexts for level 2 learners. The range of sizes and options make them an appealing option for learners at both schools and colleges. The two awards at the size of a GCSE (120 GLH), can fit in alongside academic options to provide breadth for learners and give them the chance to follow their interests. The largest size, at 360 GLH, has been created to fit well in a 540 GLH programme of study, so learners can focus on gaining an in-depth knowledge of the subject while taking a smaller qualification, such as English or maths GCSE, alongside it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Total Guided Learning Hours (GLH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principles of Applied Science Award</td>
<td>4 mandatory units (totalling 120 GLH)</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 GLH (1 GCSE size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application of Science Award</td>
<td>4 mandatory units (totalling 120 GLH)</td>
<td></td>
<td>120 GLH (1 GCSE size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Science Extended Certificate</td>
<td>8 mandatory units (totalling 240 GLH) 4 optional specialist units (totalling 120 GLH)</td>
<td></td>
<td>360 GLH (3 GCSEs size)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The combination of the mandatory and optional specialist units ensures that all learners develop areas of essential knowledge, as well as providing the chance to tailor the BTEC towards the specific needs and interests of your learners.

Learn more at www.btec.co.uk/appliedscience2012
Mandatory units

Mandatory units provide an essential core of knowledge and applied skills. Developed in close consultation with employers and educators, these core units provide an essential platform of knowledge, understanding and applied skills from which every level 2 learner can build the progression pathway that’s right for them – be that into further academic or vocational learning, into higher education or into employment.

## Mandatory Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1 - Principles of science</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aim of this unit is to study fundamental core science concepts in biology, chemistry and physics. A strong grasp of these concepts will enable learners to use and apply this knowledge and understanding in vocational contexts when studying other units within this specification.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 2 - Chemistry and our Earth</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aim of this unit is to use and develop the knowledge in Unit 1 using locally relevant industrial and related contexts. These contexts might include the role of environmental science in best industrial practice and maximising the yield of industrial reactions. technology materials and food products.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3 - Energy and our Universe</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This unit will enable learners to develop knowledge and skills related to important fundamental physical concepts. Where possible, this should be done in locally relevant industrial and related contexts such as energy supply and safe working with nuclear materials. With an emphasis on experimental investigations, and to some extent computer simulations, learners will also explore some aspects of the physics of our world and beyond.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 4 - Biology and our environment</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aim of this unit is to further develop the understanding of the core concepts in Unit 1 by, for example, studying the different activities that humans carry out that cause damage to the environment, the methods and schemes used to try to reduce or counteract the effects of human activity on the environment, and the relationships between different organisms and the environment. Where possible this should be done using industrial and related contexts such as local government monitoring of the environmental impact of industries.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 5 - Applications of chemical substances</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is important for chemists working in the manufacturing industry to be able to measure the amount of energy given out or absorbed during chemical reactions. This will enable them to manufacture products safely and efficiently, and also to find uses for chemical reactions that increase or decrease in temperature, in applications such as heat or cold packs. The aim of this unit is to build on some of the basic fundamental concepts that in Units 1 and 2 in relation to bonding and chemical reactions.</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 6 - Applications of physical science</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientists have been vital in improving safety in everyday life and in developing many modern technologies by applying their knowledge of forces, waves and electricity. In this unit learners will apply their knowledge and understanding to explore and investigate a range of applications of physics in the real world, e.g. speed cameras, weight measurement, car safety, and eye glasses.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 7 - Health applications of life science</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The knowledge and skills developed in this unit are essential for biological science technicians and scientists working in biology, health care, laboratory services and other biology-related industries. By the end of this unit learners will have gained knowledge of medical advances and research that use biological processes in the prevention and treatment of certain conditions and diseases. This unit enables learners to develop and use their knowledge to investigate health-related factors in more detail.</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 8 - Scientific skills</th>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award</th>
<th>Application of Science Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The aim of this unit is to further develop knowledge and understanding of the scientific process and build on the scientific investigation skills learners will have developed in other units. It is essential that scientists have good investigatory skills, including carrying out theoretical and practical research and testing and drawing conclusions from evidence. This unit draws on knowledge and understanding from Units 5, 6 and 7 and the KS4 Programme of Study.</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
<td>☑️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Optional specialist units

A broad range of optional specialist units provides the opportunity for learners to progress onto a BTEC First Extended Certificate in Applied Science qualification. This qualification is taught over 360 guided learning hours (GLH). Learners must complete the eight mandatory units on pages 6 - 7 of this guide, and a choice of the optional specialist units below, to reach a total of 360 GLH.

Optional specialist units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional specialist units</th>
<th>GLH</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 9: Practical Scientific Project</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 10: World Energy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 12: The Living Body</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 13: Monitoring the Environment</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 14: Growing Plants for Food</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 15: Investigating a Crime Scene</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 16: Science in Medicine</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 17: Understanding Human Behaviour</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 18: Designing and Making Useful Devices in Science</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 19: Chemical Analysis and Detection</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 20: Exploring our Universe</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 21: Electronics in Action</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 22: Biotechnology Procedures and Applications</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 23: Further Chemistry</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 24: Further Physics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unit and qualification grading

Unit grading

Grading at unit level requires learners to achieve all the relevant criteria, up to and including the attained grade. This means a student achieving a Distinction for an individual unit will need to achieve all the criteria for a Level 1, Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

We’ve also introduced a ‘Level 1’ grade for our next generation of BTECs. We recognise that some learners may pass the level 1 elements of the qualification, yet not achieve a full pass at level 2, so we have included the opportunity for learners to gain a level 1 qualification. Our BTEC Firsts have been designed for level 2 learners. If a learner has a good chance of achieving at level 2, perhaps with some stretching, then the BTEC First is likely to be the right option.

We also offer a market-leading range of level 1 BTECs and we believe these qualifications remain the best choice for learners clearly at this level. They are specifically designed to meet the needs of level 1 learners and provide an excellent platform for progression to the BTEC Firsts.

Qualification grading

While individual unit grades are rigorous in reflecting achievement in a specific area of knowledge, qualification grades are calculated through an aggregation process to reflect performance, achievement and competence across the whole course.

The qualification grade is calculated across the whole qualification using a points-based scale. That means the final grade will accurately reflect the landscape of learner achievement and showcase their strengths, so problems with an individual unit will not necessarily create a barrier to recognition of overall achievement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles of Applied Science Award (120 GLH)</th>
<th>Application of Science Award (120 GLH)</th>
<th>Applied Science Extended Certificate (360 GLH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Points threshold</td>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Pass</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Level 2 Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Merit</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Level 2 Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Distinction</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Level 2 Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2 Distinction*</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Level 2 Distinction*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to the Specification documents at www.btec.co.uk/appliedscience2012 for more information.
Balanced assessment to support progression

**Internal assessment**
We believe in the power of teacher-led assessment – locally devised assignments set and marked by teachers and tutors. Internal assessment therefore remains very much at the heart of the next generation BTECs.

We’ve improved the clarity of the learning aims and assessment, particularly for Merit and Distinction grades. We’ve also enhanced the quality assurance model so you can see how the BTEC standards are applied across all learners, centres and assessors.

**External assessment**
We’ve also introduced an element of external assessment to support the broadest possible progression opportunities for level 2 learners. The amount of external assessment remains proportionate – no more than 75% will be internally assessed with up to 25% externally assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>What external assessment looks like</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Extended Certificate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: Principles of Science</td>
<td>This unit is externally assessed using a paper-based exam. Pearson sets and marks the test. The assessment must be taken by the learner under examination conditions. The external assessment will be 1 hour.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 8: Scientific Skills</td>
<td>This unit is externally assessed using a paper-based exam. Pearson sets and marks the exam. The assessment must be taken by the learner under examination conditions. The external assessment will be 1 hour and 15 minutes.</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See pages 12-13 to learn more about assessment support

Supporting robust quality and standards

**Quality assurance**
We ensure qualification standards are maintained for centre-led assessment of our BTEC programmes through a robust quality assurance model.

Our quality assurance model for next generation BTECs will include:
- comprehensive training and support for Internal Verification, to ensure centres have a sound understanding of the qualification standard
- an annual Quality Review and Development visit, (this covers all BTEC programmes) to check implementation against quality objectives and measures
- annual Standards Verification sampling of assessment decisions and assignments.

**The next generation BTEC Firsts sampling model**

- The Standards Verification sample is based on units, assessors and cohort size. Samples will be drawn from completed units.
- A minimum of 5 complete units from the mandatory internally assessed units will be sampled every year.
- Up to 15 samples of learner work across selected optional units will be sampled every year depending on the option units chosen. Centres with very large numbers of learners will need to provide more samples.

**Lead Internal Verifiers**

For BTEC Firsts, the role of the Lead Internal Verifier continues to be vital to ensure rigorous standards in BTEC centre-led assessment.

The Lead Internal Verifier will retain overall responsibility for the assessment of a BTEC programme within a centre. As now, there will be comprehensive standardisation available on the Online Standardisation for Centre Assessors (OSCA) system. These materials should be used by the Lead Internal Verifier to standardise their internal verification team. This training should be completed prior to any assessment decisions being taken. New OSCA materials are released every year and the Lead Internal Verifier will need to confirm each year that they have used the materials to standardise their team.

The Standards Verification process takes place via post.

See more at www.btec.co.uk/appliedscience2012
With you every step of the way

We’re providing more support than ever before to help you get off to a great start. Our comprehensive online specification packs are growing to include a wide range of support to help you plan, deliver and assess BTEC with confidence.

**Becoming a BTEC centre**

If you’re not already running BTECs then you’ll need to become an approved centre. Approval is straightforward and we’re here to support you through the process. Simply visit www.btec.co.uk/becomeapproved for a step-by-step guide. Once your centre is approved, you can select the qualifications you want to deliver at www.edexcelonline.co.uk.

**Planning**

- **Specification** – Giving you clear, handy guidance on the unit-by-unit content and learning outcomes.
- **Sample assessment materials (SAMs)** – External assessment is new to BTEC, and these SAMs provide you with examples so you can help your learners prepare for and take assessment with confidence.
- **Mapping grids** – Provide a comparison between the 2010 BTEC Firsts and the next generation BTEC First Awards, so you can plan for the new structure more easily.
- **Schemes of work** – For all Award units to help you plan your teaching.
- **Getting started guide** – Providing essential advice, top tips and a range of tools to help you plan and deliver the next generation BTEC Firsts.
- **Delivery guide** – A companion to the specification that contains a wealth of ideas for practical activities, useful advice about external assessment and tips to help you find new, engaging ways to deliver the BTEC programme.
- **Planning guide** – For centres delivering the Extended Certificate in one year.
- **Lead Examiner Report, Question Paper and Mark Scheme** – Available after each external assessment to help you understand and analyse your learners’ achievements and prepare them for future assessment.

**Delivery**

- **Pearson Authorised Assignment Briefs** – A range of assignment briefs which you can use ‘off the shelf’ or edit and adapt to suit your course.
- **Assignment Checking Service** – A free support service for BTEC centres, designed to help you be confident that your assignments enable learners to demonstrate appropriate evidence across the required criteria. Learn more at www.btec.co.uk/assignmentcheckingservice.
- **Study Skills Activities** – A range of case studies and activities, designed to help your learners develop the skills they will need to successfully complete their BTEC course.

**Assessment**

- **Quality assurance** – The quality assurance process means you can drive quality across all your programmes by supporting Lead Internal Verifiers in your centres, providing quality review and development visits and carrying out sampling through our Standard Verifiers.

**Training and support whenever you need it**

- **Subject advisor service** – Led by Stephen Nugus, the subject advisor service helps you solve applied science qualification queries and provides a means of sharing ideas, information and concerns. Email Stephen directly at TeachingScience@pearson.com.
- **CPD and Training** – We have developed a comprehensive selection of training and events which are engaging, relevant and extremely useful for anyone involved with BTEC. For the latest training events, visit www.btec.co.uk/training.
- **Customer services** – Our customer service teams specialise in looking after teachers, exams officers and work-based learning providers so you can get in touch with the person best placed to answer your question. Visit www.edexcel.com/contactus to find the right team to answer your question.
IT’S ABOUT TIME. YOUR TIME. TIME TO PLAN. TIME TO THINK. TIME TO TEACH.

myBTEC is a new online toolkit which will streamline BTEC planning, delivery and assessment, giving you more time to spend with your learners. If you’re an approved BTEC centre in the UK, it’s absolutely FREE to access.

Courses
With myBTEC, it’s simple to plan your BTEC courses. It’s about planning a new, valid course in less time.

Assignments
With myBTEC, it’s easy to find authorised assignments - and develop your own. It’s about accessing authorised assignment briefs - and giving you time and support to create your own.

Find the authorised assignment briefs available for the units in your course - or create your own with confidence using the template.

Resources
Find, store, organise
Find the free support and resources available for the units in your courses.
- Create a wish list of the resources you would like.
- Organise your resources in the way that works for you.

Learn more at:
www.btec.co.uk/myBTEC
New resources for BTEC First Awards

You’ll be able to choose from a range of learning and teaching resources available from individual publishers to support the BTEC Firsts in Applied Science. Pearson has developed the following learning and teaching resources to support planning and delivery for the BTEC Firsts.

**Student Books**
- Contain all of the underpinning knowledge and understanding needed at level 2 to ensure that learners are fully prepared for the course.
- Activities in each unit provide support and clear direction for learners and can be used in the classroom or for independent work.
- The new ‘Assessment Zone’ guides learners through both internal and external assessment.
- Assessment activities and tips will help learners to achieve their potential in internally-assessed units.

**Teaching and Assessment Packs**
The online Teaching and Assessment Packs for each unit in the two Awards provide the tools you need for planning, delivery and assessment in one convenient place. Available to buy unit by unit, you can build your own personal BTEC delivery support package and just pay for what you need.

The Teaching and Assessment packs offer core teaching support including unit overview, schemes of work, lesson plans, activity sheets, teacher and technician sheets and evidence collection sheets.

**ActiveTeach DVDs for front-of-class teaching**
Our ActiveTeach software helps you to combine innovative teaching materials, such as video clips and interactive activities, with the flexibility to introduce your own resources.

Two ActiveTeach DVDs for Principles of Applied Science and Application of Science, covering all Award Units:
- **Unit 1: Principles of Science**
- **Unit 2: Chemistry and Our Earth**
- **Unit 3: Energy and Our Universe**
- **Unit 4: Biology and Our Environment**
- **Unit 5: Application of Chemical Substances**
- **Unit 6: Application of Physical Science**
- **Unit 7: Health Applications of Life Science**
- **Unit 8: Scientific Skills**

All accessed directly from the pages of the digital Student Book.

**Revision Guides and Workbooks for units 1 and 8**
- Revision Guides help students to revise external assessment topics and are cross-referenced to the companion Revision Workbook for ease of use.
- Revision Workbooks include worked examples, revision practice questions and ‘test yourself’ questions for exam preparation.

**ActiveLearn Go for BTEC Applied Science**

Textbook learning content for BTEC Firsts in Applied Science available on any device, so students can access content whenever and wherever they are, both online and offline.

**A more personal and interactive way to learn**
- Animations, videos and audio content help support some of the core learning.
- Students can interact and personalise content with bookmarking, highlighting and note features.
- Units are precisely matched to the new specifications with theory broken down so students can jump straight to what they need.
- End of unit quizzes help students to check their knowledge.

**Resources to support the new BTEC First Awards**

A range of learning and teaching resources is available to support the new BTEC Firsts in Applied Science.

Go to www.edexcel.com/resources for a complete list of endorsed materials, or you can learn more on the individual publishers’ websites.
BTEC opens doors

For 30 years BTEC learning has helped millions of people develop the knowledge and skills they need to progress in their chosen careers – and to get on in life.

Engaging and inspiring, these qualifications empower learners to move on to further or higher education, or to hit the ground running in a new job.

BTEC and increased learner engagement…

“The right qualifications for the right students which energises their enthusiasm, gives them confidence in their own abilities and raises the bar for them generally across a variety of curricular areas. Success breeds success and I am determinedly championing these rigorous qualifications to ensure a variety of learning styles are recognised and that independent learning continues to grow to help the students in the future with their studies and in employment.”

Lesley Howells, Assistant Head, Old Buckenham High School

BTEC and adding value and variety…

“The high-quality, on-site BTEC courses sit alongside the core GCSE courses and have had an excellent impact on the motivation and achievement in these subjects as well.”

Tim Berni, Head of Vocational Education, Orwell High School

BTEC and life skills…

“Vocational courses are ideal in enabling students to develop independent learning capacities which are transferable and essential for whatever their progression routes and future employment choices may be and in fact, these skills, I believe, will improve their future life chances.”

Helen Windel, Leader of Vocational Education, St Bede’s Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester

BTEC opened doors for Tayla Buley

Tayla Buley is studying for BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Science at Northampton College and is on track to receive an overall Distinction*. She has been offered a place at Durham University to study Biomedical Science and plans to become a virologist.

Tayla is an exceptional student, her tutors describe her as a ‘shining beacon amongst her peers’ and she has received distinctions for all of her assignments on her course to date. Despite helping to care for her autistic brother, working part time and supporting her grandmother through cancer treatment, Tayla has never missed a course deadline and displays outstanding commitment to her course and career goals. Her approach to her studies is methodical and systematic and she has excellent practical skills.

She is innovative and generates excellent original ideas – she is currently working on a project that involves measuring CO2 levels as an indicator for the rate of decomposition of dead rats. The judges were impressed by Tayla’s grades, her dedication and commitment, describing her as an outstanding example of vocational excellence.

Outstanding BTEC School/College of the Year

Thorpe St Andrew School in Norwich currently offers nine BTEC subjects at Levels 1 to 3 to 660 students. Ofsted rates it ‘good with outstanding elements’, its BTEC results are excellent (top 5% in the country at Key Stage 4) and many students complete their BTEC courses on or above their target grades.

Most of the school’s 25 BTEC teachers came from specialist employment and use their outstanding subject knowledge and business community links to organise excellent trips, guest speakers and work placements for their students. As a result of this high-quality teaching, 95% of the school’s Key Stage 5 students progress onto higher education or into employment.

Thorpe St Andrew has invested significantly in innovative resources during the nine years it has been offering BTECs, providing vocational students with a mock nursery, a swimming pool, an astroturf pitch and tennis courts, an ICT suite, a dance studio and an allotment. The judges were impressed by the school’s obvious commitment to vocational learning and its record of progression from BTECs onto university and employment.

www.btec.co.uk/nationalbtecawards
The new BTEC Firsts in Applied Science can be taught alongside academic qualifications such as GCSEs, or as an alternative. This means you can ensure that you are offering the right qualifications for your learners to enable them to achieve their full potential, using whichever route suits their learning style, be that academic or vocational, or a route that blends the two.

Visit www.btec.co.uk/appliedscience to find out more.

The information in this guide is correct at the time of going to press and is subject to alteration. For all the latest information on BTEC Firsts in Applied Science for level 2 learners, visit www.btec.co.uk/appliedscience2012

Or contact our subject advisor, Stephen Nugus TeachingScience@pearson.com

Contact our customer services team www.edexcel.com/contactus

Sign up for our e-newsletter www.edexcel.com/emailsungup

Follow us on twitter @edexcel

BTEC is a registered trademark of Pearson Education Limited.
Registered in England and Wales No. 872828
Registered Office: Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE.
VAT Reg No GB 278537121

Pearson is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by using responsibly sourced and recycled paper.