

# Choosing Careers with BTEC Sport

We spoke to The College of West Anglia to find out how they found delivering the latest suite of BTEC Sport career-focused qualifications.

**College name:**

The College of West Anglia –  
Sports Campus

**Region/Location:**

Kings Lynn, West Norfolk

**Number of students:**

160 (across all levels) (60 on these  
pathways)

**Your name/s:**

Scott Leadley (Programme Manager Sport  
& PPS) Sara Spencer (Course Director –  
Level 3 Sport Coaching Pathway)

How long have you been  
delivering BTEC qualifications?

We have been involved with Pearson for  
many years and were previously delivering  
the QCF frameworks.

What BTEC Sport qualifications  
are offered at your college?

Level 1 Introductory Sport / Level 2 Industry  
Skills in both Instructing Exercise and  
Leading Sport Activities / Level 3 Sports,  
Coaching & Development / Level 3 Fitness  
& Personal Training / Level 3 Sport &  
Exercise Science.

Why did you decide to do the  
new BTEC L3 2019 career  
focused qualifications?

It gives a clear pathway to the career  
destinations of our learners whilst separating  
itself from the current Sport Science  
pathway.

How did you find running the  
two-year programme for each  
pathway?

Due to COVID there were obvious  
challenges. However the units were  
adaptable to teaching online whilst being  
supported by in a fully functioning sports  
facility. This industry engagement allowed  
our learners to contextualise their  
understanding of the subjects taught.

*“The skills learnt are extremely  
adaptable & current, which are  
delivered in a manner that relates to  
future career destinations and involve  
local employers in their delivery.”*

## What advantages do these new BTEC Sport qualifications have for your learners?

Up to date and relevant subjects, with industry current practices allowing the learners to have clear focus on what they want to achieve and what they can achieve.

## What motivates your learners to take the BTEC?

Flexible approach with practical and theory elements combining well across the curriculum delivery model.

## What elements of the new BTEC courses did learners find engaging and motivating? How can you tell?

Our students fully engaged within the practical elements, especially the coaching and fitness development units, where they could develop and upskill their knowledge and understanding of future employability skills. This was shown through the practical evidence & high expectations they brought upon themselves.

## What skills did these qualifications provide your learners?

Key employability skills including time management, a range of good communication skills, adaptability, development and maturing confidence to work independently.

## What are the strengths of BTEC in terms of the skills it helps students develop/ get better at?

Apart from the skills listed above these learners have also been able to develop understanding of key sector requirements including Health & Safety, Safeguarding and wider responsibilities to help them progress in their future career destinations.

## What progression opportunities do these qualifications have for your learners?

A high number of our students have progressed to higher education, full time employment within their relevant industry and apprenticeship pathways. There are also several learners who have progressed into different vocations using their transferrable skills.

## How do you think the skills learnt on a BTEC course prepare learners for future work?

The skills learnt are extremely adaptable and current, which are delivered in a manner that relates to future career destinations and involve local employers in their delivery.





What would you say to other colleges thinking of running these new qualifications?

They offer a real insight to the industry destinations allowing for integration of delivery with key external partners, therefore keeping our learners focus on career aspirations.

How do they fit in/work alongside your other BTEC programmes?

We currently offer an additional Level 3 Sport Science qualification. By having a variety of Level 3 pathways students can clearly focus on their end destination.

Are you considering further progression opportunities?

This academic year we have embedded the Level 2 Industry Skills qualifications in both Activity Leadership and Fitness to allow for our learners to see clear and fully embedded pathway within the Sport Area at CWA, this now flows from Level 1 through to Level 3 within the area.

Anything else you'd like to tell us?

Despite the challenges that COVID brought us, we were grateful for the support by both Kate Randerson and Julie Hancock with continual communication and guidance, to ensure that we were able to deliver these new qualifications to both BTEC and CIMSPA standards.

