

CASE STUDY

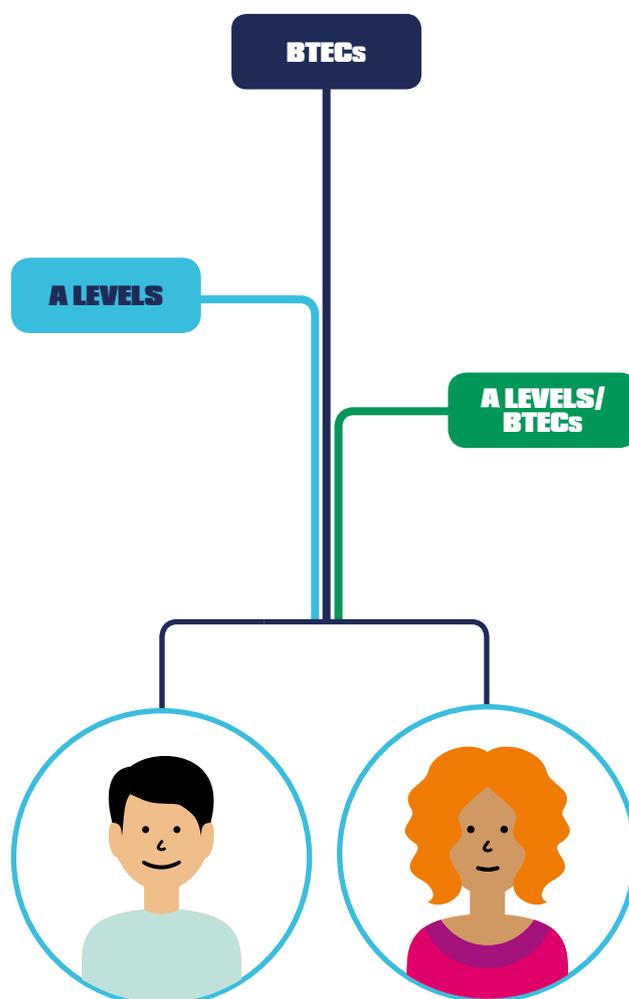
Finding the right pathway for each individual student

Bishop Douglass include BTECs in the curriculum, offering all students a pathway that works for their individual learning styles and ambitions as well as improving achievements, and widening progression opportunities.

 Centre name: Bishop Douglass Catholic School	 School type: Academy, Roman Catholic School
 Region: East Finchley, London	 Ofsted rating: Good
 Area type: Suburbs	 Pupil premium % 46%
 Number of students: 850	

Bishop Douglass Catholic School offers BTEC qualifications so that all students have equal opportunity to succeed and progress. They offers three pathways in the Sixth Form:

- academic (A levels),
- vocational (BTECs) or
- a combination of the two.



50% of students in the Sixth Form choose to **take at least one BTEC**

Students take part in taster lessons for both BTEC and A level courses as part of their Options Days, ensuring they understand the differences before they commit to their choices. Currently 50% of students in the Sixth Form take at least one BTEC.

David Adum-Yeboah, Head of Business Studies & Vocational Education, describes the difference between the A level in Business and the BTEC Level 3 National in Business as being about the depth and breadth of content covered: "My BTEC students get a deeper understanding in a narrower range of topics, while A level students cover a wider range in terms of areas of study, but they study these at a lesser depth than BTEC courses."

The most likely progression path for both A level and BTEC students at Bishop Douglass is higher education at the UCAS points for BTEC Nationals and A levels are equivalent, which means students studying A levels, BTECs or a combination of the two are all equally able to progress to university as their next step.

David reports that those who have taken a BTEC are better prepared for the style

of studying at university, partly due to the depth of knowledge they've developed and the focus on fewer topics studied in more detail. He feels that studying BTEC Nationals allows students to develop skills in research, independent learning, and report writing, all key elements of university study.

BTEC students also understand how their learning relates to the final outcome of the course, as the assessments that they take throughout the course help students understand the progress they're making and build on their achievements. David finds that on average, BTEC students tend to work with more conviction to achieve their target grades because they are self-motivated.

For Bishop Douglass Catholic School, offering BTECs opens up opportunities for progression in their learning and towards a career for all students, meaning they can achieve and progress in a way that suits their learning style and their individual aspirations.

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BTEC is simply a different pathway for our students.

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David Adum-Yeboah,

Head of Business and Vocational Education

