Motivating students with experience of real-life industry

Archbishop Beck Catholic College is surrounded by local industries, such as hospitals and transportation. Through offering BTECs, they’ve developed relationships with these employers, who now enrich students’ learning with work experience, lectures, mock interviews, and more.

Archbishop Beck has found that when students are given the opportunity to engage with local places of work, their motivation to learn increases. They are soon able to see how their classroom learning relates to real-life industry and employment in the local area. In addition, they gain valuable employability skills, enhancing their CVs and supporting their next steps in education or employment.

The format of BTEC qualifications contributes to students’ motivation. The assignments throughout the course, which contribute to the final grade, show students what they are achieving as they go along. As a result, they are motivated to work harder and demonstrate what they’ve achieved with a higher grade. For Archbishop Beck, this makes a huge difference to the engagement of the students in their learning.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NAME: RUBY*

“I’m currently studying for the BTEC First Award in Business alongside my GCSEs. The BTEC has really helped with my other subjects, especially my writing and comprehension skills for English. It’s also helped me improve my communication skills and become much more confident.

My favourite project has been developing and marketing our own product in a group. We’ve developed an energy drink! The project has helped me to see how my business learning translates into real-life products and employment.

Next year I’m going to be progressing on to A level Business, and my BTEC in Business has given me the skills and knowledge I need to do this.”

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We want to give our students the best choice to get the best results possible, and we feel that BTEC qualifications really support our students in this.

Paul Stirling, Deputy Head at Archbishop Beck Catholic College

Archbishop Beck Catholic College has the best Value Added Scores in the county of Merseyside (2017)

Two thirds of students choose to take one or more BTECs in the Sixth Form

*Name changed for confidentiality