

CASE STUDY

Doing what's right for every student

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



Centre name:
Smestow School



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



Region:
Wolverhampton



Ofsted rating:
Good (2013)



Area type:
Inner-city



Pupil premium %
25%



Number of students:
1000

Headteacher Martyn Morgan aims to give every student “the best learning experience possible”, and this shines through in the school’s approach to BTEC qualifications.

In 2015 Smestow School didn’t offer a BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care in the Sixth Form. Morgan was a student who had taken a BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care alongside her GCSEs and wanted to continue to level 3 in order to fulfil her ambition to work in family and criminal law. To support Morgan’s aspirations, the school brought in the BTEC National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care, the equivalent of three A levels. You can read Morgan’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 needs. BTEC qualifications are offered at both KS4 and KS5, with students able to follow a vocational pathway in the Sixth Form, or take a combination of BTECs and A levels - whatever best meets their needs and aspirations.

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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.

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Mr Martyn Morgan, Headteacher

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

NAME: MORGAN*

Morgan 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 help her gain practical work-place experience.

In the future, Morgan 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, Morgan 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."

**Name changed for confidentiality*

HOW DOES BTEC HELP STUDENTS PROGRESS TO A CAREER OR FURTHER STUDY?

We know you want every student to be able to reach their full potential and achieve their aspirations. That's why BTECs are a great route to a career and Higher Education. BTECs attract UCAS points and all the schools we have spoken to are sending students to universities with BTEC qualifications. Employers really value the independent learning, problem solving and communication skills a BTEC-qualified learner can demonstrate.

Discover why **St Simon Stock** finds that the learning style of the BTEC Nationals help students succeed at university, including the assignments taken throughout the course and the focus on independent learning.

Hear from **Milton Abbey** about how they find that students who have taken a BTEC are more used to the style of learning at university, and those going on to technical or applied courses are a step ahead in terms of practical skills and knowledge. They also find it helps them to recruit and retain their students in the Sixth Form as it provides the skills they need to progress.