

CASE STUDY

Owning your own learning: BTEC prepares students for university life

Students who take a Level 3 BTEC National in the Sixth Form leave the school with the grades they need to go to university, and the practical skills they need to thrive when they get there.

 Centre name:
St Simon Stock Catholic School

 School type:
Academy, Roman Catholic School

 Region:
Maidstone, Kent

 Ofsted rating:
Good

 Area type:
Town outskirts

 Pupil premium %
14%

 Number of students:
1050

 EAL %
11%

St Simon Stock finds that the learning style of the BTEC Nationals prepares students for university life. Teachers have the flexibility to keep students engaged and help them develop a breadth of specialist knowledge. Students are encouraged to discover areas of interest they want to pursue to prepare for a future career. BTEC Nationals also encourage students to become independent learners, with assessments happening throughout the course with assignments and tasks, much like a university degree.

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It's a fantastic programme which gives students skills for life and gets them prepared for university. I personally recommend it highly to all students.

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Mr Nimani, BTEC Sport teacher

The teachers at the school find that teaching through assignments contributes to their BTEC students' success. For students who find exam pressure overwhelming, the BTEC approach of assessing throughout the qualification means all their achievements in the assignments and tasks, throughout

By offering the BTEC National in Sport instead of the A level we've seen a **50% increase in cohort size in just one year.**

the qualification, contribute to their final qualification grade. There is also an opportunity to re-sit, giving students a chance to improve on their grades, and meaning that all students have the chance to achieve their true potential.

For progression to university, BTEC National grades are equivalent to A levels for UCAS points (points for a Distinction* are the same as points for an A*).

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

Before offering the BTEC National in Sport, the sport department of St Simon Stock were losing students at Sixth Form, with only 3-4 students in a Sport A level class. Their current Year 13 cohort for the BTEC is 10, and in Year 12 they now have 20 students, a 50% increase in students wanting to study the BTEC in just one year.

NEXT STEPS...

Has hearing about these schools made you think BTEC could be right for your learners?

If you have any questions then our friendly team are on hand to help. Simply fill out a short form on our website and we'll be in touch soon.

qualifications.pearson.com/BTECinSchools