






Offering BTECs gives students choice to realise their potential

Centre name:	 Bede's Senior School	Number of students:	 750
Region:	 Eastbourne, East Sussex Area	School type:	 Independent
Area type:	 Rural	Ofsted rating:	 Good

Situated in a small village near Eastbourne, East Sussex, Bede's Senior School is a coeducational independent school that offers a wide range of BTEC qualifications to assist them in their goal to "enrich young people in a holistic way".

At Bede's Senior School their mission is to treat each of their 750 pupils as individuals, every one encouraged to try as many things as they can and explore the world of opportunities available to them. The school is innovative in their approach to learning and student progression. BTEC plays a big part in that, with a wealth of qualifications taught across various sectors.

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Julia French, Director of Fifth Form

Preparing students for the future

The school understands that offering a broad and balanced curriculum can help students progress and achieve their goals. "One of the things we particularly like about BTEC is that we think it fits modern work habits a lot better," says Julia French, Director of Fifth Form. "We are big fans of the continued assessment in terms of preparing them for working habits in the future and future courses, or employment."

"We have sent students that were on a solely BTEC programme to universities such as York,

Manchester, Liverpool and Cardiff. All the Russell Group universities are happy with a solely BTEC combination or mixture of BTEC and A Levels" said Jason Henham, Head of Sixth Form.



Offering choice

BTEC has been offered at Bede's since 2007, beginning with a BTEC Level 3 National in Sport.

"It then sort of erupted after that," enthused Peter Goodyer, Headmaster. Since the early days of this small but effective list the school have added Animal Management, Dance and Music Performance to their curriculum.

One aspect of BTEC that appeals to Peter is how the coursework-based structure suits students whose learning style benefits from ongoing assessment, rather than a final exam at the end of the course.

Georgina Wainwright, Head of BTEC, is a huge advocate of vocational education, “getting the right course gives [students] the best opportunity to get the best possible grade. We encourage them to choose courses that they will definitely benefit from when they leave”.

Students have the opportunity to choose various progression paths. According to Georgina, students go on to university or apprenticeships, and increasingly straight into the world of work.

Providing a unique experience for each student

The teaching staff and senior leadership team work hard to ensure their curriculum offers an array of high-quality qualifications, both academic and vocational, with an ethos focussing on openness and experimentation.

Peter Goodyer sums up the student experience at Bede’s, “BTECs are seen in the exact same way as A Levels when it comes to university. I think it works really well for those children who enjoy the applied nature of the subjects. They get really stuck into the ideas that exist within BTEC to apply their knowledge into real situations.”

Students find that BTEC provides them with the skills they need to help them progress to University. One business student felt that BTEC helped with “time management, organisation and understanding deadlines”.

“You get a much richer experience. It prepares you for university later in life.”

BTEC Business Student

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