



Year 10

Parent Information
Evening

Thursday 1st December 2011



Aims of the Evening:

- The nature of BTEC courses, Coursework and Controlled Assessment.
- Achieving 5 A*-C including Maths and English.
- Home study – Revising for Exams



The Nature of BTEC Courses

- Vocational courses have proved very popular and learners have achieved considerable success.
- The courses are based upon the BTEC Diploma Level 2 and are the equivalent to 4 GCSE A-C passes. Level 1 4 GCSEs D-G.
- Each course is run in conjunction with the GCSE curriculum.
- It is a particular strength of the BTEC courses that they can be extended to further study at Post-16.



Vocational courses we run at St. Paul's

- Business Studies
- Horticulture
- ICT
- Health and Social Care





What would a good learner look like if they got to produce work over a period of time?

Persevere – Keep going when things get tough

Tries again

Revising & reviewing work



Always willing to have a go

Listens to advice

Not settling for the first outcome



Assessment within BTEC Courses

- There is no examinable component for the BTEC courses which are assessed through the completion of a portfolio of work undertaken over the two years of study.
- In most cases, students will have the opportunity to improve work to obtain the best possible grade.



BTEC Level 1

Business Foundation

- Students cover 16 units which will be divided between three teachers over the two years.
- **Current Units of Study:**
 - Jun/July – Managing your Health at Work
 - Sep – Dec – Ideas for Small Business
 - Feb/March – Business Administration Group Project



BTEC Level 2

First in Business

- Students will cover 10 units over the two years.

- **Current Units of Study:**

Business Purpose

Financial Forecasting

People in Organisations

Business Organisation

Verbal and non Verbal Communication

Managing Personal Finance



Health & Social Care (First)

- The BTEC First Diploma in Health and Social Care course is designed for learners who would like to know more about the health and social care field and do this within a practical, work-based environment.
- Examination Board - Edexcel
- Grades: Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* (equivalent to four GCSE Grades: A*A*A*A* - CCCC)



- **Core Units**

1. Communication in Health and Social Care
2. Individual Rights in Health and Social Care
3. Individual Needs in Health and Social Care
4. Securing Environments in Health and Social Care

- **Specialist Units**

5. Vocational experience in a relevant applied setting
6. Human Lifespan Development
7. Creative and Therapeutic Activities in Health and Social Care
8. The Impact of Diet on Health.



Horticulture (First)

- You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.
- It covers the basic knowledge and technical practical skills, providing a good foundation for future career opportunities or progression to a more advanced work-related qualification.
- **A BTEC First Diploma is equivalent to four GCSEs grades A – C**



Horticulture (First)

- **6 Units of Study:**

1. Industry Experience
2. Industry and Organisations
3. Amenity and Decorative Horticulture
4. Introduction to Biology
5. Turf Establishment and Maintenance
6. Practical Land Based Skills



How to be Successful at BTEC courses

LEARNERS:

- It is advised that student complete work to deadline, however – there will be opportunities towards the end of the course to work on improving pieces of coursework.
- Students should provide work for teachers to feedback on regularly in order to maintain a steady pace of work and ensure the best possible grade at the end of the two courses.



PARENTS:

- Parents can monitor homework (**not applicable for Level 1 Business students**) in order to ensure that deadline are met.
- Stay in touch with members of the teaching staff should you wish to have access to assignment briefs in order to help students while at home.

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Achieving 5 A*-C

- What are the dangers of thinking this way?

I need four A-C
to get on my
college course



Controlled Assessments

- Controlled assessment is a form of assessment run by a subject teacher in school.
- Designed to measure subject skills that may not necessarily be tested by written examinations.
- Completed during timetabled lessons for each subject.
- The controlled assessment programme for all subjects has been co-ordinated to avoid overloading pupils at particular times.
- Pupils will have home learning tasks to help prepare
- Catch up sessions by invitation



Pupil Progress Files (PPFs)

A record of the progress that pupils make over time – building confidence and independence

Each pupil will have in their files an overview of units to be studied each term and an assessment calendar to help keep pupils informed of the ‘big picture’ of their learning.

- Subject Specific criteria and the Learning Talents criteria is also in the files and can be used by pupils to support the assessment process and target setting.
- Peer and Self Assessment
- The Target and Pupil Progress sheets
- Marked assessments, including homework, are usually stored at the back of the Pupil Progress File for reviewing and monitoring purpose



Student Views

I'm not going to worry about exams until the summer, I'll only get wound up if I do.

I've got too much to do to worry about exams at the moment. My controlled assessments are okay and I'm just doing that at the moment.

We'll do all the revision in class after the mocks, and the teachers will help us do it. I won't need to do much at home.

None of my friends are doing any revision yet.

I'm not going to revise for the mocks. I'll see how badly I do and then I'll know how much I'll have to do in the summer.



‘The truth about exams’

- Exams are not designed to catch you out.
- They provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate your abilities.
- Examiners like giving marks to people who do what is asked of them.
- Exams can be completed in the allotted time.
- Everyone’s memory is sufficient.

**Year 10 Mock Exams begin 20th
February**

Year 10 GCSE Exams begin in MAY!



Planning your work

Planning your work means you are more likely to revise all your subjects properly. Another bonus is that it reduces stress!

Try to:

- make a list of what you have to do
- write down any coursework deadlines still to be met
- ensure your exam timetable is in a safe place for reference
- plan/design/draw up a revision timetable – **Students have begun to do this during mentoring sessions**





Prepare your workplace

A place to work

Try to have...

- a tidy, undisturbed place to work
- a comfortable chair
- a table with enough room on it for all your materials
- all the books and materials you need (and a box or shelf to store them in)
- pens, pencils, paper, perhaps index cards





Active Revision

One academic argued that we remember:

20% of what we read

30% of what we hear

40% of what we see

50% of what we do

90% of what we read, hear, see, say and do.

By using memory aids to engage our senses we can learn and remember more.



Active learning

You can stimulate your mind and learn effectively by:

- highlighting or writing out important points (distilling)
- drawing diagrams or flow charts
- testing yourself by covering an original drawing, drawing it again and then checking it against the original
- reading out loud (warn your family!)
- making up word games or mnemonics
- getting someone to test you
- working through past exam papers





Key Dates for Year 10

2 nd -9 th December	Mentoring targets emailed home by mentors
7 th December	Advent service at St Edward's Church (7pm)
12 th December (all week)	Maths assessments in lessons
13 th December	Mentoring Session 4 (Students only)
22 nd December – 6 th January	Christmas holidays
9 th – 20 th January	Work Experience (staff to complete placement visits during this time)
24 th January	Parents Information Evening – Revision in the 21 st Century. Lead by MADE
20 th February	Exams begin (all week)



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Assistant Head for Year 10

Or

- **Your child's mentor**
- **Your child's subject teachers**