

**BUSINESS**  
**BTEC**  
**SIXTH**  
**FORM**  
**COURSE BOOKLET**

# WHAT IS BTEC?

BTECs were first introduced in the 1980s: they provide a more vocational, applied approach to 16+ study than traditional A Levels. They were designed to accommodate the needs of employers, but more recently have been reformed to accommodate progression to university. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning, without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory.

The grading system for BTEC is different to A Levels and pupils are graded on a scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M) or Pass (P) with a starred Distinction D\* being reserved for the strongest candidate. A student completing a BTEC Level 3 Diploma would receive two grades: for example, D\*D or DD, this dual grading being very similar to the GCSE dual award science and similarly reflects that the qualification is worth the equivalent of two A Level qualifications in the same way that dual award GCSE equates to two GCSEs.

A Level 3 BTEC Diploma would typically be studied alongside an A Level qualification and counts as 2 A Levels. A pupil completing the Sixth Form would therefore have three qualifications recognised as A Levels or their equivalents.



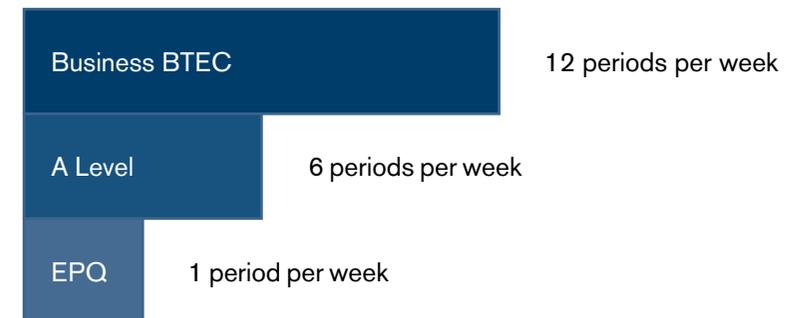
# WHO DOES IT SUIT?

BTEC qualifications are assessed differently to A Levels. Whereas linear A Levels are focused on terminal end of qualification assessments, the BTEC combines a significant proportion of coursework (54%) alongside a final exam worth 46%. This style of assessment suits pupils who find exams challenging and maybe do not perform to the best of their abilities in the exam hall. Regular, internal assessment also helps pupils to build their final grade over the duration of the course, breaking down the task into smaller manageable segments rather than being faced by the daunting pressure of a final exam on which the entire grade and their final university place depends.

The BTEC suits pupils who have a clear idea about their future pathways. If a pupil is relatively certain that a degree relating to the commercial world (for example Business, Marketing, Accountancy etc) is a route they wish to pursue the BTEC provides the opportunity for specialisation, unlike the A Level route where a pupil can only study Business for a third of their timetable. This extended study of Business enables a more thorough preparation in this specialist field prior to admission to university.

Students at Ardingly can study the BTEC alongside an A Level qualification (please see A Level booklet for further information) and, like the rest of the A Level cohort, will also complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) worth the equivalent of an AS Level.

An Ardingly BTEC student would therefore study the following combination of subjects:



# BTEC IN BUSINESS

Entry Requirement: GCSE Grade 5 in English and Maths.



Ardingly College is pleased to offer BTEC in Business. The award is essentially a double A Level which can be taken alongside another A Level qualification. The course involves many theoretical and practical units, giving candidates the opportunity to be assessed in a number of different mediums - from presentations and interviews to events, and essays.

BTECs are work-related qualifications suitable for a wide range of pupils, built to accommodate the needs of employers and allow progression to university. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory. BTECs are recognised by universities (including top Business universities such as Exeter, Bath and Kings College London), employers and professional bodies across the United Kingdom.

# BTEC AND UNIVERSITIES

More than 100,000 pupils apply to universities every year with BTEC qualifications and 95% of UK universities accept BTEC students, including competitive universities from the Russell Group. In 2015 one quarter of students accepted into higher education held at least one BTEC. Ultimately students achieving good grades are highly sought after by universities, irrespective of whether those grades are BTEC or A Level. Universities will select well-qualified BTEC students in preference to less well qualified A Level students.

BTECs enable students to specialise in one subject, which can often mean that they are better prepared for further study than pupils who have only studied one A Level which relates to their course. Universities often find that BTEC students can respond better to the independent nature of university study as a result of the skills they have developed while creating their BTEC portfolio.

This is a significant change in recruitment policy. In the past BTECs were coursework-only qualifications that many elite universities did not accept. This is no longer the case: in recent years the number of students achieving ABB (the minimum grades required by students to enter most Russell Group universities) has gone down by 2500 per annum; the number of students holding the equivalent grades has increased by 16%. As the university sector expands, and the population of teenagers in the UK shrinks, universities are responding to this challenge by diversifying their recruitment.

## **Example university offers for BTEC students include:**

Nottingham - A Level AAB or DD in BTEC + B grade A level

Kings College London- - A level AAA or DD in BTEC + A grade A level

Exeter- A Level AAA or DD in Business + A grade A level

For the right student it can be argued that it is easier to obtain DD or D\*D in a BTEC qualification than AA or AB in two A Level subjects.

If securing a place at a good university to study something related to Business is the aim of your son/daughter, then the BTEC is a proven and effective route to obtaining this; in many ways it can be argued that is a more accessible route to the same outcome.

