

EDEXCEL / 2 YEARS

HEALTH & SOCIAL DIPLOMA

The BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care is a Level 3 qualification designed to provide a highly specialist work-related qualification in the health, social care and early years sectors. It gives students the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to prepare for higher education programmes, apprenticeships or employment.

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma qualification has been developed in collaboration with employers and representatives from higher education and professional bodies to ensure students have the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes relevant to health and social care. Within this qualification, students will complete coursework units based around important themes within health and social care. There is no examination-based element of the specification. Students also undertake 1-3 placements as part of their studies within a health and social care setting. The placements will be completed over the two years and students will be supported in their acquisition.

Year 12 units of study are based around key themes within health and social care, for example, the development of effective communication skills, equality and diversity, health and safety, development through the life stages and anatomy and physiology. Additionally, selected units are based around the themes of psychology and sociology. Within these units, students will look at the skills and attributes required for developing relationships with service users as well as examining ethical issues and studying the legislation that underpins care environments.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

Students will develop their critical-thinking skills, resilience and interpersonal skills and learn how to research actively and independently to become an effective writer.

ASSESSMENT

The BTEC Level 3 National Diploma is equivalent to two A-levels and includes units which are internally assessed through coursework. Qualifications are graded using a scale of Pass-Distinction* and are recognised by UCAS with a tariff of 112 points for a Distinction*, the same tariff as an A* for an A-level.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

The BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care works well with a wide range of subjects, since throughout this course students will learn a broad base of transferable skills. Those students who are interested in NHS pathways may wish to consider other science subjects such as Medical Science or Biology. Students interested in primary education may wish to consider a National Curriculum subject covered at primary level.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

This course provides a route for students who wish to take a vocational qualification alongside one or two A-levels and is a route to higher education for careers such as social work, nursing, counselling, occupational therapy, nutrition, primary teaching and working in a nursery.