

9 December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

2021 BTEC Health & Social Care Level 1/ Level 2 Technical award

Further to my letter sent earlier this week, I am now in a position to update you on the proposed changes for the BTEC learners.

The Secretary of State for education has announced that '*students taking vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to ensure parity between general and vocational qualifications. Some vocational qualifications will require more varied adaptations due to the different qualification types.*'

Pearson have been working closely with the DfE, JCQ, Ofqual and other regulators to ensure learners studying for their BTEC qualifications are subject to the same or equivalent mitigations as their fellow students studying towards GCSE and A levels. Adaptations have been made to the requirements for some of the internally assessed units (e.g. reduction in the length of both internally assessed units). Mrs Glennie will explain this to the students.

How do the measures announced by the DfE apply to BTEC learners?

Dfe announced measures	How this will be applied to BTEC
Students and teachers will be given advance notice of some of the topic areas that will be covered in the exams.	This will not be applied to BTEC examinations. BTEC will instead be allowing a reduction in the assessment of optional units. Teachers have been encouraged to deliver mandatory content first, so that this content can be assessed. As the external assessment for BTEC usually forms a smaller proportion of the qualification, a reduction to the number of internal assessments a learner completes is a more appropriate adaptation for BTEC qualifications.
In some subjects, exam aids, such as formula sheets, will be provided on the day of exams, relieving students of the burden of memorising all the information they would normally.	Formulas will continue to be provided for assessments where these are required. Additionally, the assessment windows for some task-based assessments have already been extended to allow learners more time to complete the assessment.

<p>There will be a provision of 'contingency papers' where learners have not been able to undertake any assessment, with reason, in order to gain a qualification</p>	<p>BTEC is built on modular assessment with the majority of content centre-assessed and quality assured by Pearson. As such, there is no need to provide 'contingency papers' for the external assessments. Students will always have been able to undertake some form of assessment which will allow us to award a grade in the exceptional circumstance that they are unable to sit any of their examinations. As for many qualifications there will be two opportunities available for the external assessments. If an external assessment is missed with reason, learners should be encouraged to take the assessment at the next available opportunity and only where this isn't possible, Special Considerations can be used. This is in line with the existing process, to ensure learners can gain their qualification</p>
<p>Students who miss an exam due to self-isolation or sickness, but who have completed a proportion of their assessments for a qualification will be awarded a grade using the assessments they did complete.</p>	<p>This will apply to BTEC as we have described above.</p>
<p>Students who may be shielding and unable to take their exam in a school or other setting will be supported to sit their exams, for example, at home.</p>	<p>Due to the modular nature of BTECs, external assessments are usually offered more than once per year. BTEC examinations should be attempted in one of the available sessions in 2021. If this is not possible, with good reason, Special Consideration can be requested.</p>
<p>Generosity in awarding outcomes for learners, in line with 2020 standards</p>	<p>This will apply to BTEC. We will look to adopt similar principles to those of General Qualifications where the purposes of the qualifications are the same.</p>

When the final changes have been agreed we will write to you to explain how these affect your son/daughter.

Have a lovely Christmas,

Best wishes



Mrs K Barter
Deputy Headteacher



Mr M Desborough
Head of Business and Computer Science
BTEC Quality Nominee