

Creating an inclusive curriculum

Centre name:  Hamstead Hall Academy

Number of students:  1100

Region:  Birmingham

School type:  Academy

Area type:  Inner-city

Ofsted rating:  Good

Hamstead Hall Academy is located in an inner city, deprived area of Birmingham and requires a curriculum that accommodates a diverse, multicultural base of students, many of whom have English as an additional language, or have a Special Educational Need. Offering BTEC qualifications significantly contributes to an inclusive curriculum which supports all learners.

Hamstead Hall Academy caters for approximately 1100 students across an age range from 11 – 18 years and reflects the cultural diversity of the city. Over 60% of the student body are classified as English as an additional language with over 23 different first languages spoken by pupils. The Academy is one of only six schools in the city with a Special Educational Needs Resource Base and caters for 40 students who have statements for cognition and learning difficulties. The proportion of ‘Looked After Children’ on roll is also well above the National average. Inclusivity is central to the curriculum, ensuring that every student is given the opportunity to progress, achieve and gain accreditations.

allowed pupils to discover different sectors of the world of work and develop wider key skills such as communication, co-operation and teamwork. There has also been a marked improvement in social skills for particular pupils who have previously struggled

“ Choice and opportunity sums up BTEC for us. ”

Sharon Wood,
Head of BTEC and Performing Arts teacher

BTEC qualifications are key to offering an inclusive curriculum at the Academy. They help support the differentiated learning needed to challenge such a diverse cohort of pupils as well as providing a variety of assessment methods to suit the learning styles and preferences of all pupils.

The introduction of BTEC courses and qualifications at the Academy has enabled teachers to experiment with an applied learning approach which has





in certain group situations. For example, in BTEC Performing Arts pupils have learnt to build their own confidence and boost self-esteem through the freedom and expression of movement in dance without any societal stereotyping. The course can be adapted so that it supports pupils' interests, abilities and cultural backgrounds such as Bhangra, Street, Hip Hop and Contemporary dance rather than having a prescribed content specification.

Financial constraints are always a concern for educational establishments however, Hamstead Hall Academy have found that BTECs are relatively easy to implement on a comparable if not lower budget than other examination courses. With regards to resources you can work comfortably within your means. An example of this is in Performing Arts where you might think you need a lot of production and staging equipment but at Hamstead Hall they simply have floorspace and two mirrors. In the last 6 years of offering the BTEC, they have invested £800 in the course which was the total cost of two full length portable mirrors.



“ You come into the classroom and they're actually smiling. ”

“ It's not restricted, you can adapt it to meet the needs of your students. ”

Carla Tranter,
Assistant Head Teacher

quals.pearson.com/btecschoolsform