

Active Gloucestershire



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BTEC supports skills in the Sports sector

Active Gloucestershire is a charity whose vision is that 'everyone in Gloucestershire is active every day.' They unite organisations and people around this vision to make it a reality. The organisation is part of a national network of county sport and Active Partnerships operating across England.

Tom Hall is Physical activity specialist lead for Children and Young People and spoke to us about his experiences of BTEC and working with BTEC learners.

'I have previously taught in a secondary school where colleagues of mine within the PE department led on the BTEC delivery. In my current role, I work extensively with young volunteers who are completing their BTEC at local FE colleges, most notably Hartpury College and University Centre.'

We asked Tom how BTEC directly supports skills development in the Sports sector. 'I think it is important that someone entering our sector understands that things have changed. Entering the world of sport development, you need to be very willing to adapt to change', continues Tom. 'Many of the core, transferable skills that are developed through the practical component of BTEC are of great value. For example - communicating a wide variety of partners and stakeholders and problem-solving issues as and when they arise.'

'In addition, these days there is a far greater emphasis on using insight to inform decisions, developing effective partnerships with local and national organisations and stakeholders and using a variety of ways to change the behaviour of those who need support most. This involves a greater understanding of place and space.'

'By their practical nature, BTECs should enable young people to be effective in problem solving, working with others and communicating and all of these skills are in need due to the changing nature of the sector.'

We also asked Tom about the partnerships Active Gloucestershire has. 'We have had a formal partnership with Hartpury College and University Centre for the last 3 years. Our role is to support their FE learners with a year-round programme of events, which provides them with practical experiences at a range of events.'

Tom continues, 'I have been so impressed by the young volunteers from Hartpury. Their ability to think of their feet during events is outstanding. It is also very rewarding to see them grow in confidence as they are exposed to a variety of teaching staff, pupils, parents, governors and community organisations through the year round programme. It is a fantastic partnership where both parties benefit. We host a range of events across the county that are led superbly by young people from Hartpury. In return, they develop key skills and learn more about the sector, events etc.'

Tom ends our conversation by saying 'at the start of the year, I feel there is often a slightly naïve attitude towards volunteering in that they believe it will always be fun and glamorous. We have noticed that as time progresses, they understand how being reliable, approachable, proactive and open minded, can make a huge difference to the running of an event and indeed their own personal development. These are the sort of skills our volunteers learn on their BTEC and is the reason I would highly recommend the BTEC route to other organisations like ours.'