

sport

BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma and National Diploma

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Exam board: Pearson



What is this subject about?

BTEC Sport is a stimulating and challenging, and nationally recognised, vocational qualification for students wishing to progress to higher education or pursue a career in sport and recreation. The BTEC sport courses are the ideal platform to start building the foundations to a career in the sports industry e.g. sport scientist, sports psychologist, sports coaching and sports development. These are two year courses. The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to one full A Level and the Diploma is equivalent to two full A Levels.

What will I study?

This course is designed to develop both knowledge and practical skills in the broad field of sports, coaching and fitness. Examples of the units studied for the Subsidiary Diploma over the two years include: Fitness Training and Programming, Assessing Risk in Sport, Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport, and Sports Coaching.

Students opting to take the National Diploma will study units such as Sports Nutrition, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, and Leadership in Sport, in addition to those units studied for the Subsidiary Diploma. Learning is largely theory-based, linking the teaching and study to current and relevant practical sporting settings.

Students will acquire knowledge and skills through teacher-delivered lessons and tutorials, practical lessons, individual and group research projects, visiting speakers, and personal experience.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed throughout the two years by a number of coursework assignments. Coursework assignments may include written documents, group presentations and practical work. These coursework assignments are centre-assessed and then externally moderated by the exam board.

What skills will I need and develop in this course?

Students feel that this course provides them with a wealth of skills for life and builds the confidence needed to pursue employment or higher education. You will be encouraged to develop a range of skills including research methods, delivering a presentation, portfolio building, time management and various practical skills.

What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?

Many students progress to study sport-related degrees at university, including sports psychology, sports studies and sports coaching. Equally, students may choose to go straight on to employment within the broad spectrum of sport-related jobs.

What are the formal entry requirements for this course?

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, practical sporting ability is required and Grade 4 or above in GCSE PE and/or GCSE Science.

What extra support/enrichment activities are on offer?

The department runs a wide range of visits directly related to the core content of the units studied. These will include local leisure facilities such as St Mary's University Twickenham, Wimbledon Tennis Club, Chelsea FC, Twickenham Rugby Stadium, and High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, amongst others. Students may also complete the Community Sports Leaders Award, as well as other NGB qualifications, which includes a nationally recognised first aid qualification. For those studying the diploma in Sport, we will support you in undertaking a science related work experience placement in year 1.

Subject combination advice:

BTEC Sport combines well with most subjects, including IT, Business Studies and Psychology due to the various units studied. It is recommended that BTEC Sport is not done in combination with A Level PE as there is a close link with the units covered in the A Level Physical Education specification; this is particularly relevant in the case of students who opt for the National Diploma.