

News Release

Number 519
Date 30th May 2003

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Training for tomorrow's business leaders

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Following extensive consultation with the business sector, including employers, a new suite of BTEC business qualifications has been launched by awarding body, Edexcel.

The input from business was vital in developing the qualifications to ensure they are relevant, up to date and help students develop business skills that are immediately transferable to the work place. They are specifically designed to meet the demands of today's employers and provide students with a high level of occupational competence as well as a route into higher education.

Courses cover a wide range of topics including management, marketing, finance, business ethics and enterprise. Students are encouraged to take work placements, or use their experience of both full time and part time work, to enhance their awareness and understanding of the business world and apply this in the classroom.

They offer a ladder of progression from First Diploma (equivalent to 4 GCSEs) to National Diploma (equivalent to 3 A levels) and are aimed at students who want to develop their skills, continue in education and broaden their future career opportunities. They also open doors for learners who have been out of the education system for some years but are looking to return.

Rick Firth, BTEC Director at Edexcel, said: "These new BTECs will help create the next generation of business leaders by providing students with access to a relevant and highly regarded business education with a clear ladder of progression.

"The content and structure of the courses, as with all BTECs, ensure that students receive a qualification that not only recognises their achievement and allows them to fulfil their potential, but is valued by employers and education institutions alike."

BTEC business qualifications can be delivered in both schools and colleges and cater equally for full time students aged 14-19 and part time learners returning to education. BTECs in business provide the foundation knowledge and skills required by professional institutions for membership and access to professional qualifications.

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The BTEC First and Nationals in Business build on the unique BTEC Nationals in e-Business launched last year, and provide opportunities for active student learning, manageable assessment and high student achievement and retention.

Available now for teaching in September 2003, the BTEC First and Nationals in Business were accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 20th May 2003.

Notes to editors

1. The new suite of business BTEC qualifications provide opportunities for student achievement at pass, merit And distinction grades. includes:
 - The BTEC First Diploma in Business comprises 6 units and is pitched at level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework. It is equivalent at pass grade to 4 grade C GCSE passes. It may be delivered over years 10-11 in schools or year 12 in colleges.
 - The BTEC National Award in Business comprises 6 units and is pitched at level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework. It is equivalent at pass grade to one full A level pass.
 - The BTEC National Certificate in Business comprises 12 units and is pitched at level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework. At pass grade it is equivalent to 2 A level passes.
 - The BTEC National Diploma in Business comprises 18 units and is pitched at level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework. It is equivalent to 3 A level passes

Edexcel is the leading provider of academic and vocational qualifications, formed as a result of the merger between BTEC and London Examinations. Qualifications include GNVQs, NVQs, GCSE, A/S and A levels, and the Higher Nationals and other BTEC qualifications.

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