

## VOCATIONAL GCSE'S AND LINKS TO BUSINESS

The purpose of this document is to enable **EBPs** to arrange informative, supportive business links for students studying one of the new vocational GCSEs.

- APPLIED ART AND DESIGN
- APPLIED BUSINESS
- ENGINEERING
- HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
- APPLIED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
- LEISURE AND TOURISM
- MANUFACTURING
- APPLIED SCIENCE

These new vocational GCSEs vary from traditional GCSEs in a number of ways;

- Each vocational GCSE is worth two GCSEs.
- As the new GCSEs are double awards (equivalent to two GCSEs) the schools and colleges have been advised to devote double the amount of teaching time they allow for other GCSEs.
- Teaching methodology is different. Students need to be immersed in working environments relevant to their course and to use exploratory and analytical skills to draw conclusions from 'live' environments.
- Each subject area is divided into three units. One of these is assessed through an external examination while the other two are assessed internally through assignment work usually based on actual businesses within their subject area.

These differences throw up challenges to education business links. Education needs to develop a very practical approach to the teaching of these subject areas ensuring that students have good access to real companies. Businesses need to be informed about the level and type of information these students will require. Education Business Partnerships face the challenging role of ensuring the relationship between schools and businesses remains a dynamic, positive experience for all parties.

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INFORMATION & COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

## DOUBLE AWARD

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