

Vocational Learning Opportunities for Key Stage 4

Easton College is working in partnership with Norfolk High Schools to provide vocational programmes for students from years 10 and 11.

Easton College is a specialist Further Education College. The programmes offered at Easton College currently fall into 3 distinct curriculum areas.

- Work in the countryside, with animals, plants and machinery.
- Work in the sport and active leisure industries
- preparing to work in the public and uniformed services.

About the Vocational Learning Opportunities programme

Vocational Learning Opportunities programme Key Stage 4 students come to Easton College for a college day once a week as a part of their curriculum.

We explicitly make the point that whilst on programme, learners become an Easton College student, we are not attempting to augment a school curriculum, whilst at Easton College, you are expected to attend as any other Easton college students would do.

Easton College programmes all lead to nationally recognised qualifications at levels equivalent to GCSE. We are looking for students that can demonstrate an interest in the curriculum area for which they have applied and that will commit to coming to college regularly. The students on these programmes will need to be able to fit into the adult environment of a college, behaving in an appropriate manner to enable their integration into non-school surroundings.

The programmes at Easton are very popular. Applications are made through your High School at the Year 9 Options. All applicants are interviewed and have a chance to see the college before places are offered. Parents and guardians are also welcome to visit the college (with prior notice) to see the college, discuss the programmes on offer and review the progression opportunities for learners.

The programmes we offer only run if there are sufficient suitable candidates to make up a class. If we are not able to offer a place on a first choice programme we will often offer an option of a place on a nearest equivalent programme. The final decision has to be in the best interest of the learner.

Progression

Successful completion of a level 1 programme will enable a student to apply for a place on a level 2 qualification in any area of study after leaving school.

A level 2 qualification in conjunction with appropriate GCSE grades would enable a student to continue studying at level 3.

A Progression Officer works within the college to ensure that all learners have the necessary information to make informed choice about their next steps, and offers a programme of advice and guidance to all students as they prepare to move on after key stage 4.

Vocational Qualifications

Land & Environment

The Diploma In Environmental and Land Based Study. (ELB)

A new type of qualification is being offered that involves a delivery by a combination of school and college teachers, examining all aspects of an industry and the opportunities that learners may wish to pursue.

The Diploma in Environment and Land based study will allow learners to develop skills in working with plants and animals, study the interaction between mankind and the environment in which we exist, the interaction between species of plant and animal and the reliance of each species on the effects of others. You will therefore begin by looking at soil and its importance to the biosphere, progressively you will examine what plants are growing and where they growing; what causes them to be suited to that environment. The type and needs of animals that are found in the ecosystem will then be examined, ultimately, discussing how the plants and animals have need affected by the most abundant animal of all; mankind. You will study the effects of environment in a number of situations, on farm, in town, next to the sea and on water-courses. The programme will allow you to develop an understanding of where we live and how we live, eventually discussing the reasons for the structure of our society. This very current issue is of worldwide importance, how mankind has influenced the earth, and what can we collectively do to reduce that influence that we have on species that share our planet.

In short, the diploma will provide an innovative, practical and motivating programme of study that will develop learner's skills and knowledge in the environmental and land-based sector. A sector that really does affect all of us, however much interest we take in it..

As a diploma candidate you will be involved in research projects and the presentation of your findings, as well as demonstrating the practical aspects of environmental and land based skills. The programme will require the use of functional skills in language, mathematics and information technology as well as an understanding of the core subject.

The diploma will be offered at levels 1 and 2 to key stage 4 learners in conjunction with the high school; Level 3 Diploma will become available as a progression opportunity post 16.

Because of the specialist nature of the diploma, there are criteria that must be met before an application can be entered. Your school must be a partner in a diploma delivery consortium. Easton College and your School will deliver the diploma jointly; therefore your school must have the necessary timetable commitment and staff resource to offer the diploma. Not all Norfolk schools will be offering the diploma initially. You therefore need to speak to your school (form tutor or year 9 head) to discuss whether the Diploma opportunity exists in your school and if so, to discuss what level of Diploma you would study.

Level 1 Land Based Operations (LBO)

If you are unable to access the diploma provision offered, either because your school is not offering diploma provision, or because you do not consider the diploma to be an appropriate programme, you may wish to consider the Level 1 Work Based Certificate in Land Based Operations.

This programme is a mix of practical and theory in all aspects of land use, there are no written exams. Each student's learning is recorded in a portfolio of evidence which includes worksheets, witness statements, photographs of practical tasks and the student's own written records. The portfolio is assessed for the award of the qualification.

Entry requirements for Level 1 programmes:

Applicants for places on level 1 programmes should be working at level 3 or above towards the Key Stage 3 SATs (or teacher assessment in the absence of SATS).

Equivalency:

The Level 1 Work Based Certificate qualification is the equivalent of 2 GCSEs at grades D to G. The practical work and written work for these courses may be completed within the time at college although students may be set work to do at home or school. There is some flexibility in the achievement of the programme through the "points score" process. A more able learner may be able to complete more units, thus gathering more points and becoming eligible for a Work Based Diploma, whilst a less able learner may be able to "cash in" fewer points, and qualify with a Work Based Award.

Programme Content:

The Level 1 Work Based Certificate Land Based Operations programme is cyclic, learners will rotate around tutors and the college, there is no doubt that there will be learners that prefer some aspects of the curriculum more than others, however it is important that learners commit to the whole programme, learners cannot "select" the parts they enjoy and omit those that they are less enthusiastic about, learners must take the whole qualification or none at all.

Learners will rotate around two or more of the following areas: Animal science, Livestock production, Countryside & Habitat Maintenance, and Horticulture. The precise nature of the areas of learning will depend on the availability of tutors and the numbers of learners enrolled on a particular day, but the programme will give significant learning with animal and non-animal related subjects.

The programme will give a varied curriculum helping learners experience a variety of occupations, but leading to the same qualification. Many learners will be involved helping with the care of farm livestock such as pigs, poultry, cattle and sheep. In addition, all learners will be involved in the maintenance of structures such as fences and animal accommodation. Many students will also assist with the management of different habitats on the college farm. This will include activities such as coppicing, strimming and mowing. Some students will be involved in practical projects such as maintaining bird and bat boxes to improve wildlife habitats, feeding deer and game birds and to identify trees, shrubs and plants. Students will

learn how to work safely according to the requirements of industrial standards. Many students will develop skills in indoor and outdoor horticulture which are the skills needed to work in areas such as in a garden centre or plant nursery. This programme encourages a development of practical skills and knowledge of animal care with farm livestock and often smaller animals in the animal care centre. Learners will gain workplace skills alongside studying legislative requirements of animal welfare, health and safety and the skills needed to be able to maintain equipment and animal accommodation.

New for 2010 – Land based Vehicle Engineering and Maintenance (LBVM)

For those that have an interest in engineering principles and the maintenance of machinery, this programme will offer an opportunity to explore an aspect of engineering that is not car focussed. Engines and machines in the land based sector are diverse in their size and function, from small 2 stroke trimmer motors to large multi-cylinder diesel power plants, all have one common requirement that they need to be maintained. This programme will involve undertaking basic maintenance routines on a variety of machines, as well as elementary mechanical anatomy and physiology. The programme will involve development of understanding of mechanical transmission, electrical systems, hydraulic power transfer as well as the process of converting fuel into usable power. Learners with an interest in mechanical engineering in the land based sector will be engaged and involved in an area of work in which progression opportunities for the right candidates are strong..

Sport and Public Service Programmes

Level 1 Sport: N.C.F.E. Level 1 Certificate in Exercise Studies (CES)

This programme will give students an understanding of the benefits of exercise and fitness and the opportunity to improve their own levels of fitness during practical work. The course will evaluate the importance of personal fitness and it will encourage students to improve their lifestyle and become more aware of how to become healthier.

The course will address current issues in sport, including health and safety when exercising and how to undertake safety checks on equipment and exercise areas. Training programmes will be developed and used to demonstrate progress and improvement in performance.

This course will be an excellent introduction for any student who is looking for a career in the fitness and leisure industry. After completing this qualification, students may be able to progress onto a Level 2 sport, exercise or fitness qualification to further develop their experiences.

Level 1 Public Service: NCFE Qualification - Public Services (NCFEPS)

Students on this course are required to create a portfolio of evidence which covers the tasks they have completed for each unit. The course consists of activities that relate to working in the public services. You will undertake units of work on team building, health and fitness, communication skills and practical sport. You will also complete a first aid course.

Level 2 Programmes

Entry requirements for Level 2 programmes:

Applicants for places on the level 2 programmes should be working at level 5 or above towards the Key Stage 3 SATs equivalents in English, maths and science. Level 2 Certificate qualifications are approximately the equivalent of 2 GCSEs at grades A* to C depending on whether the student has gained distinction, merit or pass. In addition to the work completed when at college, students will be set assignments to be completed during the week. Note also that there are rigid criteria attached to level 2 provision, including a requirement that in order to progress from year 1, all first year course work must be complete to a pass standard. Learners with incomplete work at the end of year 1 will not be permitted to progress to year 2. In addition, there is no fall back programme for level 2, if you do not achieve the standard required to pass all outcomes, then you will not achieve the qualification.

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Animal Care (L2AC)

This programme offers a taste of college style work through the study of animal welfare. You will develop the ability to consider particular tasks and present your work in different ways. Learning will take place through theory lessons in biology, handling and care of animals. Practical lessons will support the theory by requiring students to feed, handle and manage animals in the Animal Care Centre and at the College Farm Livestock Units.

Level 2 Football Studies (Higher Achiever Programme) (L2FS)

This programme will combine football coaching, training and fitness with a First Diploma in Sport. There will also be an opportunity to take a Junior Leaders Award in Football.

Topics delivered on the Football First Diploma are

Fitness for Sports Performance; Technical Skills and Tactical Awareness
Nutrition for Sports Performance; The Body in Sport
Psychology for Sports Performance; Health, Safety and Injury

The course is aimed at the student who has a particular interest in football. Emphasis is placed on developing skills that will allow the student to have a greater understanding of the different components that form the basis of performance and excellence.

BTEC Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate Public Services (BTECPS)

This programme allows learners to examine the needs of the public services, the entry and fitness requirements for each service and how to apply to enter a public service sector. You will take part in teamwork and leadership activities as well as a range of practical sports and fitness challenges. There is the opportunity to undertake some outdoor activities and gain a recognised first aid qualification..

Horse Care Levels 1 & 2 (HC)

Students on horse care programmes will develop practical skills and knowledge in the care of horses and associated tasks in and around the equestrian centre. Students will undertake development of workplace skills as well as an understanding of legislative requirements. Be aware that **there is no practical riding on this programme**.

Candidates with extensive experience of horse management will possibly discover that they are able to access a higher level than they would ordinarily, thus the programme is run as a combined level 1 and level 2. The staff teaching the programme will be able to offer advice and guidance on appropriate level once the learners have become established. Level 1 & level 2 learners undertake similar practice, assessment methods however will differ.

Entry Level Provision

This programme forms the foundation to progression to all pathways at Easton. It offers a range of modules including horticulture, animal care, sport, land and environment, TITAN (independent travel), managing money, catering, and arts and media.

The specialist nature of this provision is such that we would prefer to discuss the needs of the learner with parents and school, agree a programme that is of benefit to the candidates concerned and to agree an appropriate attendance and outcome.

If you would like to discuss this level of provision, please contact the partnerships department to arrange a meeting.

FAQs

Do I have to wear special clothes?

Students should come to college suitably dressed for the weather. Most of the programmes involve working outside in all weathers. Fashion clothes are not suitable for a day at Easton College. As a rule of thumb, dress for the worst weather and you can always take it off. If you don't have it with you, you can't put it on!

What do I need to bring to college?

- Protective clothing or sports clothing as listed below
- Lunch
- Pens, pencils and paper
- A watch - students are expected to arrive on time for classes; there are no bells at college.

Protective Clothing

Land Based Operations programmes (except Horse Care): all students will need to bring protective clothing for practical work (overalls and steel toe capped boots). We hope you will bring your own – although if you do not have your own there is a protective clothing store which you can borrow from on the day you are at college.

Horse Care: students on the horse care programme should have a BHS approved riding hat, and riding boots and gloves to use when they are undertaking practical session at the yard.

Sport, Football and Public Services programmes: students on these programmes should bring clothing and equipment suitable for taking part in practical sport activity.

All students have to wear protective clothing for all practical work and will not be able to continue on the course if they refuse to do so.

What do I do about lunch?

Students can bring a packed meal or buy a hot meal, salad or snack in the refectory and other eating-places around the campus.

Will I meet students from other high schools?

Yes. There are usually students from at least 10 high schools at college on any day. Nearly all the classes have a mix of students from different schools.

Will I be on a course with college students?

Not usually, there are exceptions made for specific individuals on bespoke programmes, however the majority of programmes are run just for the high school groups. There will sometimes be an opportunity to share a sports activity or practical class with a group of college students.

What is it like at college? Can I look round before I decide?

There will be opportunities in the autumn and Spring Terms for school groups to come to Easton to have a look round and meet some of the staff. Your school will have information about this. If you come for interview, your parents/carers are welcome to come to look round and discuss the programme content and progression with college staff. Bring your family and friends to the Easton College Open Day on the first Sunday in June. See advertisements in the EDP for details.

What do I do next?

Talk to your teacher to discuss the most appropriate choices for you at key stage 4. If you are sure that Easton College has a programme that is suitable for you, complete an application form - your parents/carers must sign the form as well, pass the completed form back to your form tutor. The school will send the form on to Easton College and arrange to bring you for an interview and further discussion.

Further information from:

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