

# OCR Nationals – a positive option in today's complex educational landscape

## **The first big issue: How do we teach in a changing world?**

The world is changing fast. Educators need to be flexible. More than ever, we need to give our learners a rock solid educational foundation so they can take advantage of new job markets and respond to the shifting needs of business, industry and commerce. OCR Nationals are highly flexible, are practically based and are recognised and respected by educators and employers alike.

## **The second big issue: How do we unlock every learner's potential?**

Every individual has potential. There are countless different ways to unlock that potential. Academic achievement is just one. A good proportion of learners respond better to a less academic approach, learning faster and progressing further when they're taught the practical applications of a subject. To be truly effective and future-proof, a good education system should meet the needs of all abilities and learning styles.

OCR Nationals' unit-based approach is ideal for learners of all abilities. Those who take OCR Nationals tend to be much more motivated. The difference is dramatic. Learners who have previously struggled academically tend to blossom when they're exposed to independent learning. It opens up new worlds to them that they might never otherwise have discovered. In addition, brighter pupils can complete additional units and achieve more, and the flexibility of OCR Nationals means that they are not held up by others as would perhaps happen in linear courses.

Because they choose their own study topics, learners are inspired to explore new, interesting, creative and relevant pathways. The result? An individual who enjoys a huge increase in confidence, is happy, stimulated, entertained, well educated and positive. Someone who is raring to go!

## **The third big issue: How do we cater for every learning style and ability?**

Everyone has their own learning style. Thousands of learners are much more inclined to do something practical and work-related than academic. They deserve their own place in the curriculum. Active learning in a work context is a potent combination. OCR Nationals' job-orientated qualifications put learning directly in a practical context and learners are active rather than passive. It's powerful stuff.

## **The fourth big issue: How do we help learners shape their future?**

A lucky few individuals have a vocation. A few more know exactly what they want to do.



Some have a fair idea. But the majority are still discovering about the world, themselves and how they fit into their environment. It isn't fair to expect young learners to have a clear, adult view of their future careers. Not only that, exposing them to learning independently, flexibly, practically and creatively opens up exciting new vistas that traditional academic qualifications simply can't provide.

OCR Nationals' focus is delivering qualifications designed to prepare learners for work in general rather than training them for a specific sector. OCR Nationals are all about flexibility. If a learner wants to change the direction of their qualification, they can. They can also choose and change which level of OCR Nationals qualification to aim for as they progress. And if they hit gold and find something that really inspires them, OCR Nationals support independent learning fully and wholeheartedly.

## **The fifth big issue: What's best for teachers?**

Teaching a wide range of mixed abilities is a real challenge when you're teaching traditional GCSEs and A Levels. Keeping everyone happy and stimulated is like juggling plates. And the administrative burden can be huge. OCR Nationals are wonderfully flexible for teachers. The qualifications' straightforward administration allows centres to process large numbers of mixed-ability learners concurrently, efficiently and effectively. OCR Nationals' structure lets teachers tailor and pace learning directly to learners' interests, which greatly improves individual progress. Continual assessment lets teachers identify successes in good time and guide learners towards higher

achievement. And one-to-one moderation means teachers get invaluable ongoing feedback about people's progress. Teachers can moderate electronically to reduce paperwork without reducing quality and they are able to benefit from face-to-face meetings with OCR Nationals experts.

## **The sixth big issue: How do we tie in education with business?**

Business plus education is a powerful combination, one that brings significant benefits to learners and the commercial world. With corporate social responsibility high on the agenda, OCR Nationals are the ideal way for businesses to get involved with their local community and get a genuine feel for their future workforce. Learners benefit enormously from the strong, positive links with industry and commerce that OCR Nationals encourage, and enjoy the opportunity to engage directly with potential future employers.

OCR Nationals - a vital part of a healthy, diverse education.

## **Find out more about how OCR Nationals will benefit your centre or business.**

Call now on 02476 851509, email [ocrnationals@ocr.org.uk](mailto:ocrnationals@ocr.org.uk), or visit our website at [www.ocrnationals.com](http://www.ocrnationals.com) for more details