

Westwood High – Case Study

OCR Nationals – Real World : Real Skills

OCR Nationals, OCR's new suite of vocational qualifications, were officially launched in September. Available in eight subjects, the qualifications have been successfully run in a number of centres. They have proved to be very popular with everyone involved.

Westwood High School has been offering OCR Nationals to its 16 to 19 year old students.

One of the Nationals offered is the OCR Level 3 National Diploma in Sport. This qualification equips students for further study at the same or a higher level and/or to start work in a sports related job, such as a sports assistant or a leisure attendant.

Matt Ashton, a PE Teacher spoke of his experience using Nationals in Sport.

“OCR Nationals were much needed. There was a definite gap for a relevant and vocational sports based course. Qualifications that did exist were too rigid and boring.”

OCR Nationals are easy to deliver, featuring common structures and straightforward progression routes, their flexibility allows students to achieve single unit certification or full qualifications.

Matt continued:

“The structure of OCR Nationals makes them easy to administer. The two moderator visits a year are excellent.”

The structure also means that they are motivational and flexible. There is a choice of units, all with a vocational element.

Students in general enjoy the course, particularly the practical elements. The work experience module means that they get an understanding of the world of work. Students are able to offer evidence easily, just by following the course.

OCR Nationals offer a practical and flexible approach. There is a good choice of units that are easy to implement.

Problems with other qualifications in terms of assessment are solved by the National's holistic approach to assessment.

OCR offers a comprehensive range of support materials available.

I would encourage other centres to offer Nationals – they offer real qualifications with real work experience.”



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