

BTEC Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care

(Alternative Academic Qualification, equivalent to 1 A level)

Why study Health & Social Care?

- The Extended Certificate qualification in Health & Social Care uses a combination of assessment styles to give learners confidence that they can apply their knowledge to their studies. The skills developed support progression into higher education and a career in Health and Social Care.
- The range of vocational assessments - both practical and written - mean that learners can showcase their learning and achievements to the best effect.



Why study Health & Social Care at Solihull Sixth Form College?

- Learners will have the opportunity through vocational learning experience to interact with the health, social care and early years sectors.
- There will be opportunities to develop knowledge of Higher Education through a variety of organised activities.
- Learning and assessment takes a variety of formats from essay style assessments through to presentations of research. A variety of teaching methods and learning experiences will be used ranging from classroom-based activities through to visiting specialist speakers.
- Studying for the AAQ allows you to choose two of a wide range of A level subjects alongside to support your interests and career ambitions.

Case Study

This is a new qualification, but a similar BTEC Extended Certificate ran previously and among the successful students was **Niamh Harrington**.

She came to the College from St Peter's School to study A levels. She achieved an A* grade in Sociology, an A in Psychology and a Distinction* in Health & Social Care. She has progressed to Birmingham Children's Hospital to do a Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship.



"I enjoyed being able to learn at an advanced level and become more independent in my learning. The resources provided by my teachers and all of the books available in the library enabled me to enhance my learning and supported me when writing assignments."
- student Niamh Harrington



Course Outline

An AAQ is a 2-year vocational course, equivalent to one A level. It is studied alongside two other A level courses. The units are as follows:

Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development

Learners will cover physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, and the interactions between biological and social factors in health and well-being and how health care professionals provide effective care.

Unit 2 - Human Biology and Health

Learners explore the organisation, structure and normal physiological functioning of the human body, and the effect on health of common disorders of the body systems.

Unit 3 - Principles of Health & Social Care Practice

Learners focus on the principles that underpin meeting the care and support needs of individuals, which are the foundation of all services within health and social care.

Unit 6 - Safe Environments in Health and Social Care

Learners explore the importance of safe working practices, professional responsibilities and record keeping in maintaining safe environments and quality care in line with national standards in health and social care settings.

Assessment

Equivalent in size to one A Level. 4 units are studied in total, of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are externally assessed.

Mandatory content (75%)

External assessment (50%)

Examining Board – Pearson.

Special Entry Requirements

Standard A level and A level equivalent entry requirements apply - www.solihullsfsc.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

None.

What do our learners go on to do?

This course is equivalent to 1 A level. On completion of this qualification you will be able to apply directly to university to enrol on courses to become nurses, paramedics, midwives, occupational therapists and social workers for example. Please note that for some of these careers, a GCSE grade 4 or above in Science is necessary.

Cost Implications

None.

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

Subjects such as Sociology, Psychology, Biology and English complement the type of study required on this course. Learners are encouraged to take voluntary work experience as part of the enrichment programme.

Examination Results

Although this is a new qualification, a similar course ran previously which enjoyed high levels of achievement:

Year	Pass Rate %	Merit and above%
2023	100%	100%
2024	100%	100%

Contact

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