



## 2015-16 Vtct AWARD FOR SPORT IN THE CURRICULUM

### BRIDGWATER COLLEGE

#### Sports Department

### INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS THROUGH COACHING, LEADING AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

#### The Planning: Purpose and Process

- This project was a college, community and employer focused model which sought to provide students with a holistic approach to personal development as well as the skills to allow them to flourish in the sports industry.
- The aims of the project were:
  - to provide a work-ready platform for students to gain experiences in having to plan, lead, deliver or support sporting and active leisure activities within local communities and for employers
  - to provide a valuable opportunity for students to make positive contributions to their local, regional and international communities
  - to promote the awareness of different environments and users engaged in sport and physical activity and to allow students to appreciate the skills needed to deliver to differing groups
  - to provide students with both an insight into the working world and genuine opportunities to gain employment
  - to provide students with motivational, challenging and inspiring experiences which encourage achievement and success via the cross-college 'College Advantage' model.

#### Planning into Practice

- Employers shaped and developed the curriculum via an employers' advisory panel: local employers and charity trusts were invited to share their views on programmes and suggest how they could work together to support student and employer needs.
- The Sports Academy, run by the sports department, offered students across the college the opportunity to take part in fitness and sports sessions provided during lunchbreaks and other times. The Academy function was organised by the college Sports Maker, students and specialist interns forming 'team BC'. Students applied for 27 sports activator roles, four of which were lead activators working directly with the Sports Maker.
- The Sports Academy provided a good range of facilities on campus and these were supplemented by those arising from the partnerships. The provision was supported by a range of expert coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists and other specialist services.
- The college sought to be at the forefront of new pedagogic approaches, and blended this dynamic style with structured pastoral support. Staff pioneered e-learning platforms to engage students and inspire them through creative approaches to learning and assessment. In order to prepare them for developments in e-learning, students were given assessments that developed their independent skills and use screencasting software which was also used by staff to deliver lessons.
- Sport activators formed part of the student support management team, led by the college Sports Maker. Students were each given a managerial role in which they planned, coordinated and delivered physical activity and mentored other students across the college.

#### Continuing Development

- Quality assurance took into account all of the different participants in the initiative, including the student voice and internal and external verification procedures. Students participated in forums with the senior management team (SMT) whilst regularly meeting with tutors.
- Understanding of equality and diversity was reinforced by the many cultural, social and economic issues encountered when students undertook work experience in the college, in schools and in the community and when working with disabled and ethnic minority students.

- Students received additional volunteering and work experience through residential course tours in the UK and abroad in South Africa.
- An elite sports bursary was made available for students who needed support for equipment, training and transport costs.

### **Outcomes/benefits to date**

- 1,300 students (or 15% of the college's total student population), benefitted from the wide-range of activities provided by the Sports Academy in 2014/15.
- There were 160 full-time 16 to 18-year-old students recruited to eight level 1-3 courses in 2014/15. They all obtained successful outcomes, the majority with high grades, as well as gaining a number of employment related qualifications, such as first aid at work and safeguarding and protecting children.
- In 2015, the 23 student volunteers delivered over 1,000 hours of voluntary sporting opportunities in 33 different sports to over 300 students across the college, as well as in the local community. One of these student volunteers was selected for the National Student Volunteering Committee for AoC Sport.
- All study programmes and additional qualification success rates surpassed national benchmarks and were ranked within the top 10 percentile across the sector in 2014/15.
- The college has piloted a 'fit for work' programme, the aim of which is to ensure that students are aware of the importance of physical activity whilst also having the baseline fitness levels to embark upon their desired career choice.
- The award money was used to develop a scholarship fund to help support prospective students who show promise within coaching leadership and volunteering. The fund has also helped subsidise additional coaching qualifications to support the growth and development of students at the college.

### **Relevance and Replication**

- This project shows particular excellence in engagement with partners to provide several wide-ranging, effective and productive community and employer partnerships. The high quality of the teaching and learning assessment results in excellent outcomes with outstanding success rates. Sports students benefit from the additional qualifications and industrial awards which they achieve.
- The comprehensive and full use of practical learning in realistic working conditions and utilising industry facilities results in well-prepared, rounded students who reach high levels of achievement. The Sports Academy, together with the development and use made of local and more distant partnerships, provides excellent opportunities for students to experience a variety of work placements and coaching by experts.

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