



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Graham Saffery and Jack Buxton

Ensuring success in Vocational
subjects





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Learning comparison between A1 and A2

A1

- Plenty of scaffolding
- Organisation and time management key focus
- Building confidence and resilience
- Promoting the importance of professional communication
- Start to challenge previous learning and knowing the value of getting things wrong

A2

- Student led learning and working effectively in a group
- Higher order thinking and questioning
- Increased complexity of homework tasks
- Applying knowledge and skills into assessments and placements
- Taking a leader role within the group



Student Y



- Positive GCSE score, above entry criteria.
- Full-time Health & Social Care
- Employed 25hours P/W
- 20 hours P/W dance class
- Holiday during term time
- 82% attendance
- Late regularly
- Poor quality notes and file
- Did not have stationary
- Enters lesson with energy drink “for breakfast”
- Regularly missed deadlines for coursework
- Limited commitment to placement
- Lacked motivation for exams
- Limited revision as working
- Did not attend any revision or support sessions

- Achieved MPP

Student Z

- Positive GCSE score, above entry criteria.
- Full-time Health & Social Care
- Employed 8hours P/W
- 96% attendance
- Punctual
- Excellent notes and file
- Enjoyed placement and gained positive report
- Always arrives organised with stationary and notes etc.
- Brings water to lessons
- Organised, uses planner to structure workload. All deadlines met.
- Involved in college enrichment to enhance college experience
- Revised and worked hard for exams
- Attended revision sessions
- Achieved D*D*D



Vocational Skills Needed for Success

- Coursework
- Sort the bag out!
- Use of directed study time
- Planning ahead and time management
- Use of feedback as a supportive mechanism
- Use of all the resources available
- Communication with staff
- Attendance
- Exams
- Sort the bag out!
- Use the past papers and mark schemes
- Reading notes is not revising
- Use of additional learning support
- Revision timetable
- Paired or group revision is so powerful

Organised

Attendance



Handy hints for parents/Guardians on helping A2 vocational learners succeed.

- Manage commitments including P/T work or demanding hobbies.
- Do not book holidays or all “surprise holidays” during term time.
- Monitor attendance and authorise genuine absences.
- Promote a positive morning routine. Ensure awake and ready in time.
- Do file checks. Ask them to explain what they are studying and how it is organised in their files.
- Check they have essential stationary throughout the year
- Where possible ensure they have a healthy breakfast.
- Contact senior tutor if you have any concerns and check CEDAR.
- Ask about placement (where learners undertake a placement) Do a practice run and ask about progress.

Check when exams are. Ask to see their study plan.

Be part of the revision process. Help with quizzing, planning etc. Do they need any resources such as revision cards or a revision book?

If needed encourage reduction in P/T work prior to exams to allow time for revision.

Encourage a good sleep routine. Not on social media in the early hours.

And, Finally...

Talk about the benefits of all of the above. Look at long term goals and aspirations.

We all want the A2 year to be a positive and exciting experience.

