



Key Stage: 4

Subject: Animal Care

Aims of the subject:

This BTEC First Award is designed to give an introductory overview to some of the key principles, knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the animal care sector. You will study animal health, which is externally assessed via a written paper-based exam, as this knowledge and understanding is essential when caring for animals. You will also gain a knowledge of animal behaviour and develop your safe animal handling skills, which is vital in order to effectively care for animals.

GCSE Examination Board: Pearson (Level 2 Award)

Assessment Overview:

The majority of units will be assessed internally via a range of written and practical based tasks. For each internal unit the content will be taught, and you will have a set amount of time to complete your assessment at home. After the hand in date your work will be marked and internally verified by your teachers and then you will have 15 working days to make any corrections needed. The onus is on you to manage your own time and complete your work at home, with the support of your teacher.

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
9	<p>This year will help you become competent in handling and restraining small animals, large animals, exotic animals and reptiles. It will also give you a range of opportunities to develop the essential skills you will need in order to handle and restrain animals in a commercial setting.</p> <p>Term 1: This term will act as an introduction to the course and prepare you to work safely with a wide range of animals. You will be given opportunities to practise handling animals, and undertake some research about their welfare.</p> <p>Term 2: You will learn about the reasons why it is necessary to handle and restrain animals, such as for health inspections, grooming or training. This will include learning about industry guidelines, health and safety legislation and animal welfare legislation. You will also learn about the control measures that can reduce the risks, and also about the procedure for reporting accidents when working with animals.</p> <p>Term 3: You will learn how to approach, handle and restrain animals safely, and build your confidence through practical assignments. It is also important that you work safely and effectively with a variety of animals, so in this unit you will develop safe working practices and use a variety of handling equipment.</p>	<p>You will undertake two internal assessments for this unit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risks When Working With Animals 2. Animal Handling & Restraint <p>These will include a range of both practical and written tasks.</p>

Year	What will I learn?	Assessment
10	<p>During this year you will study and complete assessments for the Animal Behaviour and the Animal Housing & Accommodation units.</p> <p>Animal Behaviour In this unit, you will learn about the normal behaviour that we expect to see in animals, as well as abnormal behaviours that may be caused by an animal's environment. You will also learn about animal behaviour by visually monitoring animals and recording the behaviours you observe. These observational skills will be useful in many careers in the animal care sector, when knowing how to observe an animal's behaviour allows you to make better decisions about its welfare.</p> <p>Animal Housing & Accommodation In this unit, you will explore how to select and prepare animal accommodation in line with different animals' needs. You will investigate how and why different types of housing and bedding are suitable for the needs of different animals, and you will learn about the importance of good animal hygiene. You will also gain practical skills by preparing animal accommodation for use, checking and maintaining the accommodation, and cleaning it out effectively. These are all essential skills for anyone planning to work with animals, and you will learn how to use these skills both safely and effectively.</p> <p>All assessment for these units will take place internally, assessments will include a range of both practical and written tasks.</p>	<p>You will undertake five internal assessments for these units.</p> <p>Animal Behaviour:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animal Behaviour Patterns 2. Monitoring & Recording Animal Behaviour <p>Animal Housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selecting Animal Accommodation 2. Preparation & Maintenance of Animal Accommodation 3. Cleaning Out Animal Accommodation

Extra-curricular opportunities

Children undertaking the Animal Care BTEC are encouraged to assist with after school clubs run on the farm in order to increase their handling skills. By doing this, they will gain useful experience teaching younger children how to safely interact with a wide range of animals.

- Term 1 Pony Care Club requires a number of BTEC students to support Mrs Price and assist with grooming, handling, feeding and mucking out duties for Harvey, Sonny, Sheena and Hamish with up to 15 younger pupils.
- Term 3 Farm Club requires a number of BTEC students to support Mrs Price and assist with a wide range of animal handling and garden maintenance tasks, with up to 15 younger pupils.

How you can support your child's progress

We encourage children to undertake as much animal experience and wider reading around the subject as they can. Pupils are encouraged to assist with the after school clubs or volunteer at an animal sanctuary if possible. Much of the assessment work set in this course needs to be completed by your child at home, and so providing them with a quiet work area and internet access for research would also be beneficial. Time management of assessment deadlines is an important skill needed for this course, marking deadlines on a home calendar and encouraging work to be completed in a timely fashion would greatly help your child's progress.