

Course title: Level 3 BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

Academic year:	2026
Course Venue:	BWH
Course Type:	A Level
Duration:	2 years

Course Description:

The Pearson Level 3 BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate) is an applied, vocational qualification designed for post16 students who are interested in health, wellbeing and care professions. The course allows students to explore how people develop across the lifespan, how health and illness affect individuals, and how health and social care services support different needs in society.

It is designed to be taken alongside A Levels and provides a strong foundation for progression to higher education, particularly degrees related to health, social care and allied professions. The qualification combines academic study with practical, applied learning and develops key transferable skills such as communication, research, teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking.

In this course there is lots of theoretical content in common with A-level biology but with a focus on how this is applied in real-life health and social care settings.

Course Content:

Students complete four units in total:

Mandatory units (3)

- Human Lifespan and Development (external exam)
Physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across life stages and factors affecting growth and health.
- Human Biology and Health (external exam)
Human body systems, normal functioning and the impact of common disorders.
- Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (internal assessment)
Core values, legislation, professional practice and social determinants of health.

Optional units (school chooses 1)

- Health, Policy and Wellbeing
- Promoting Health Education





- Safe Environments in Health and Social Care
- Health Science

Assessment:

Assessment is a combination of externally examined units and internally assessed coursework, with synoptic assessment linking knowledge across units.

Entry requirements:

Combined Science Grade 5/5 or grade 5 in separate science – Biology.

Financial Information:

Standard post16 funding applies for eligible students.

Students may need to cover additional costs such as text books, revision guides, stationery, printing, and possible educational visits.

Future opportunities:

This qualification supports progression to higher education, including:

- BSc Nursing
- BSc Social Work
- Degrees in subjects allied to health (e.g. occupational therapy, physiotherapy, public health, psychology)

It also provides a strong foundation for apprenticeships or employment in:

- Health and social care services
- Childcare and education
- Community and support services
- NHS and private healthcare settings

Further information:

This qualification is:

- Equivalent in size to **one A Level**
- Accepted by universities and higher education providers





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- Assessed through a mix of exams and coursework
- Designed in consultation with higher education and industry professionals

