

# BTEC: building the next generation



Dear colleagues

BTEC qualifications are helping more young people make progress in their lives than ever before. Last year more than 80,000 people went to university with a BTEC, and a BTEC at level two or three improves lifetime earnings significantly.

We're always looking at how we can build even stronger BTECs, to guarantee their value in helping learners make progress in their lives. We're doing that at the moment in the context of the Wolf Review, and of course we'll be ensuring that BTEC is aligned with its recommendations.

So we're engaging the country's best employers and universities to make sure all of our qualifications offer stretch, for the brightest and hardest working students, whilst retaining BTEC's unique ability to motivate and engage all learners.

We want our qualifications to represent the highest possible standards, to give you and your students the confidence to succeed in vocational education.

One of the ways we think we can build even more confidence in BTEC is through the use of external assessment. We'll be running trials and carrying out research this year to explore different options for implementation in 2012 – and at the same time provide extra support for you.

There are many forms that external assessment can take, (exams are only one) and aside from universities and employers, we want to hear from you, the professionals, who know best about how BTEC should be assessed. At Pearson we know that good teaching is the key to good education. We seek teachers' input into just about everything we do – because we know that for all of our hard work, what happens in the classroom is what matters most.

I hope you'll join us in providing feedback. We hope you'll talk to us at events we're holding around the country, and share your views on vocational education at [www.bigvocationaldebate.com](http://www.bigvocationaldebate.com). You can also email me at [rod@bigvocationaldebate.com](mailto:rod@bigvocationaldebate.com).

I look forward to working with you to ensure that vocational education continues to have a great future in our schools and colleges. Together, we can help the next generation of learners get the skills they need to build successful careers.



Rod Bristow, President, Pearson UK

