

Video transcript for article one: preparing students for higher education

Laying the foundations at prep school - Mrs Emma Goldsmith, Head of Winchester House School (0:04-0:37)

What are going to be the most important decisions that a child makes? It's going to be who they're going to have relationships with, how they're going to be a person in society so I would say that those foundations are critical to be based in prep school education. Kindness, the way you treat other people, that is going to have an effect on their working life post-school leaving and they've got to start building those in right from the very beginning when they start school and they start socialising with other people outside of their families.

BTEC as a new vocational qualification - Mrs Natasha Dangerfield, Head of Westonbirt School (0:38-1:28)

One of the most exciting changes in education most recently has been the inclusion of BTECs and the more modular approach to assessing skillsets. A-levels are not the only entry into university anymore, and the provision of BTECs within a number of schools has allowed a great approach, a broader approach to students taking that next step into higher education. Getting this past parents - making them understand that the vocation of a particular subject, the vocational approach to a particular subject is as successful as an A-level approach - has been hard but many schools have managed this with great success and children benefit from developing their skills and their knowledge base in a very different way.

Teaching children to use technology - Mr Richard Brown, Head of Handcross Park School (1:29-2:45)

We know that technology-enabled innovation is one of the major spurs to increased productivity in modern society. At Handcross Park we have invested heavily in the use of technology to ensure that the children are digitally literate and ready to embrace technological change. We are a Google reference school and Acer Innovation School. We were also recently awarded Best Prep School for Innovation by The Week Independent Schools Guide. Basically, all the pupils from Year 3 to Year 8 have one to one chrome books and alongside the more traditional ways of teaching, we use the virtual Google classroom and Goguardian software in our teaching. This allows us to utilise edtech in a more holistic way when educating our pupils.

I also feel that we have moved away from the 'passive learning' teacher-centred model of the 20th Century to a more 'active learning' model where we feel that collaboration, problem solving and high order thinking skills are really challenged when integrating edtech effectively.

Developing soft skills and readiness – Mr Ceri Jones, Head of Caterham School (2:46-3:41)

Our Learning to learn programme is about developing independence, self-efficacy, problem-solving skills in all of our young people so that at school we're teaching them and giving them the framework that they're going to need to succeed and apply in the world both of university and higher education and in the world of work. We also have a course for all of our sixth form called Readiness - our Readiness course again which again we use at the end of our upper sixth which begins to bridge the gap between school and university. So for those pupils going off to study particular degree courses, we begin, if you like, the undergraduate study and undergraduate experience for them here at school with seminars, with distance learning, with the opportunity for them to begin to deep dive more into the subjects they're going to be studying at university and teaching them in a way that is more university-like so by the time they hit university the following October, they are ready for it.