

# Professional Pathways Business



Professional Pathways (PP) is Ark's approach to providing a more inclusive curriculum pathway through our schools, ensuring our mission is achievable for all

The programmes are aimed at students whose potential is not being realised through a traditional, purely academic, linearly assessed curriculum. The PP Business programme is an innovative post-16 programme that empowers students to develop best practice in delivering vocational qualifications. Our focus is on training and empowering students to work with businesses directly. This will allow businesses to co-design curriculum projects, deliver employability workshops and speaker events, and promote apprenticeship programmes and employment opportunities.

The main component of the course is a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma that is equivalent to 3 A Levels. This is only in one subject – Business – but it has a very wide range of different units.

## Course Outline

Everyone taking this qualification will study seven mandatory units:

- Exploring the Business Environment
- Developing a Marketing Campaign
- Personal and Business Finance
- Managing an Event
- International Business
- Principles of Management
- Business Decision Making

In addition, there are units in human resources, accounting, marketing, and law. The course is demanding and challenging, and you need to be prepared to work independently on projects. There are some exam-style assessments, but most of the course is assessed through projects. These require you to work independently to write up your work, and to bring it together under the success criteria. PP Business benefits from Ark's partnerships with major businesses and



organisations, allowing students to experience first-hand the working environments in large multinational companies and benefit from expert knowledge and skills. This year's programme includes visits to Lloyds Banking Group and Salesforce, with sessions and coursework delivered by trained experts from both organisations.

## Career Progression

Study Business related courses at university including Business Studies, Economics, Marketing, Human Resources, Accounting and Finance. The Exam Board consulted universities and employers prior to the development of this new specification and the consensus was that the skills it developed, such as data handling, research skills and using tools to solve business problems, were just what universities and employers wanted.

## Entry Requirements

- 2x Grade 4 GCSEs
- 3x Grade 5 GCSEs (including at least Grade 4 in English and Maths)

### *What our students say...*

*"I'm happy I chose PP Business because I feel the course content has a real-life aspect to it that can help me in my choice of career"*

*Nikhil – Year 12*