

Tutorial colleges are paving the way for access to Higher Education

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1997 BATH ACADEMY HAS BEEN HELPING STUDENTS PREPARE FOR STUDY AND GAIN PLACES AT universities across the UK. As well as offering A-levels in a range of subjects, the Academy runs the David Game University Foundation Year, which enjoys wide acceptance by UK universities, and organises tailor-made English programmes designed to build on the student's previous study. The EFL (English as a Foreign Language) provision at Bath Academy was recently accredited by the British Council and the Academy has been accredited as an institution by BAC since 1998.

The majority of students who attend Bath Academy for academic courses secure university places; recent graduates of the University Foundation Programme gained entry onto courses including Mathematics at Warwick, Software Engineering at Durham and a variety of subjects at Bath University. This continued success rate is clearly linked to the level of care and academic support which the staff at Bath Academy provide for their students. Progress is monitored carefully, with the academic management team receiving weekly reports from subject tutors; this way if a student needs extra help or encouragement it is picked up quickly and dealt with accordingly. During the most recent BAC visit inspectors commented favourably upon the quality of lessons, describing them as both relevant and motivating.



The level of pastoral care at Bath Academy was also praised by inspectors, with particular recognition of how sensitive the set-up is to non-native English speakers. In terms of social activities students elect their own representatives to form a Social Committee so that they can shape a programme which suits them. Recent events included a Halloween Party at the Academy and a Summer Ball in the unique setting of the famous Roman Baths.

The true testament of Bath Academy's success, however, is in the progress of former pupils as demonstrated in a recent bulletin on their website. Not only are students from Bath Academy achieving sought-after university places but they are also proving themselves to be highly employable upon graduation. This is borne out by the examples of a former student now working in the Technology and Info-Comms department of Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Hong Kong and another in Operations Management for HSBC. Clearly students from Bath Academy are not only succeeding academically but they are also thriving in the workplace. A high proportion of students at the Academy come from outside the EU and might struggle to find university places if it wasn't for the support that they receive during their time there. It is increasingly apparent that tutorial colleges such as Bath Academy are providing a key link between bright, motivated students and universities which rightly value the international component of their student population.

