

Pre-entry Transition to Brunel: Supporting BTEC students

Charlotte Thackeray

HeadStart Officer

HEAD
START

What is HeadStart?

04 May 2018

- HeadStart is a weeklong induction scheme on campus designed to support Widening Participation (for example low income and disabled students) and students who have a non traditional route to University such as students who have been in care or through the clearing process
- HeadStart week was created in 2008 to ease the transition for students with a lack of experience in Higher Education
- In 2017, 2671 students were offered a place on HeadStart with 108 students attending and 82 students attending 3 or more days

What Happens?

04 May 2018

Day 1 - Monday 11th September	Day 2 - Tuesday 12th September	Day 3 - Wednesday 13th September	Day 4 - Thursday 14th September	Day 5 - Friday 15th September
10:00 – 10:30 <i>Arrival and Registration</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>	9:00 – 9:30 <i>Registration</i> LECT 117	9:00 – 9:30 <i>Registration</i> LECT 117	9:00 – 9:30 <i>Registration</i> LECT 117	9:00 – 9:20 <i>Registration</i> LECT 117
10:30 – 11:00 <i>Introduction Icebreaker</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>	9:35 – 10:20 <i>Reading and Note making</i> Richard Bond LECT 117	9:35 – 10:20 <i>Sources and the Library</i> Shazia Arif (Librarian) LECT 117	9:35 – 10:20 <i>Handling Pressure</i> Peter Eldrid and Paramjeet Kaur (Counselling) LECT 117	9:20 -10:40 <i>Travel Reimbursement - By College</i> (9:20: CEDPS, 9:45: CBASS, 10:10: CHLS) Students make final preparations and set up projects <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>
	10:25 – 11:20 10:25 – 10:35: <i>Introduction to Union of Brunel Students</i> 10:40 – 10:50: <i>Introduction to Brunel Buddies</i> 10:55 – 11:15: <i>Introduction to the Disability & Dyslexia Service</i> LECT 117	10:25 – 11:10 <i>Managing Your Finances</i> Tracy Fern or Ingrid Samuels (Money Doctors) LECT 117	10:25 – 10:55 <i>Maths SOS</i> Inna Namestnikova and Benjamin Peters LECT 117	10:40 – 11:25 <i>Showcase Event</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>
Break 11:00 – 11:15	Break 11:15 – 11:30	Break 11:10 – 11:30	Break 11:15 – 11:30	Break 11:25 – 11:45
11:15 – 11:40 <i>Travel Expenses</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>	11:30 – 12:30 <i>Assignments: How do I get Started?</i> Richard Bond LECT 117	11:30 – 12:30 <i>Presentations to Impress</i> Richard Bond LECT 117	11:30 – 12:30 <i>How do I Write a University Essay/Report?</i> Richard Bond LECT 117	11:45 – 12:30 <i>Final Feedback & Certificate:</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>
11:30 – 12:00 <i>Getting the most out of University</i>				12:35 – 12:45 <i>Group Photo</i> <i>Eastern Gateway Auditorium</i>

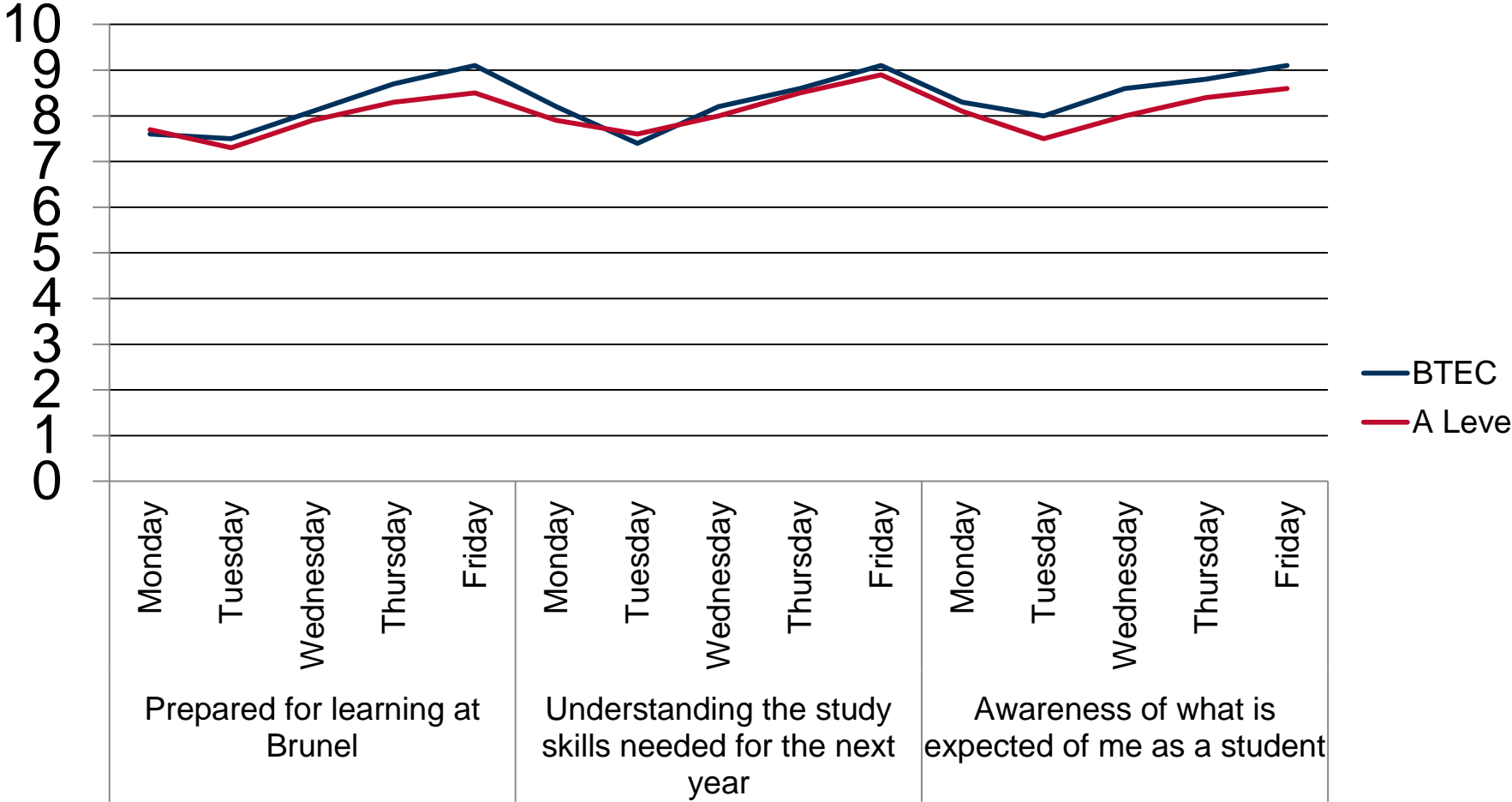
Method - what were we looking for?

04 May 2018

- Over the course of HeadStart week students were surveyed daily in order to gauge learning, how they felt about the week and offer improvements
- The questionnaires they were given on each day had a quantitative and qualitative element
- After HeadStart week, four students were asked to take part in two separate case studies at week 6 and week 23 to see whether there was any longer term impact of HeadStart

Results - Quantitative

Comparing quantitative BTEC and A Level responses to HeadStart Evaluations



Student A - BTEC Mature Learner

"HeadStart week provided me with an amazing foundation to begin my first term at university"

"Having met so many new people, this enabled me to meet their friends and so forth. This opened up a plethora of connections I made."

Student B - BTEC first year student

"I am glad that signed up to do HeadStart week as I know that if I didn't then I would have been slightly lost."

"The activities and knowledge that I gained during HeadStart Week was entirely crucial in adding to my previous knowledge....referencing being the most useful to me at this point in time, whilst completing my assignments."

- There is a dip in results on each Tuesday but this is consistent for both BTEC and A Level students
- BTEC students rate themselves very highly
- The awareness what was expected and the preparedness for learning is evident for BTEC students but more should be done to investigate what should be done after HeadStart
- Both A Level and BTEC students benefit from the being taught the same study skills sessions and they both clearly find them valuable
- Certain online resources could be developed to target certain students at certain times of the year as part of a 'long thin induction'

Thank you for Listening!

04 May 2018

Any Questions?

Charlotte.Thackeray@brunel.ac.uk

@CThackeray