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Do Cambridge Nationals support progression to further studies at school or college, to higher education courses and to work-based learning?

Conference Paper Abstract

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Abstract

OCR National qualifications, now *Cambridge Nationals*, are vocationally-related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. They are industry-relevant, geared to key sector requirements and very popular with schools and colleges because they suit a broad range of learning styles and abilities.

The main aim of this research was to investigate if these vocationally-related qualifications supported progression into the labour market (e.g. via work based learning) and into further or higher education, as recommended by the Wolf review of vocational education (Wolf, 2011). In particular, the research looked at:

- the characteristics of the learners who were awarded OCR Nationals (age, prior attainment, socio-economic background and centre type attended);
- the qualifications taken alongside OCR Nationals;
- the progression of candidates with OCR Nationals in terms of further studies or work based learning.

The focus was on students who were awarded OCR Nationals from the academic year 2006/07 to the academic year 2008/09.

Overall, the outcomes of this work showed that OCR Nationals enabled progression to further study at schools or colleges and at university in a variety of ways and therefore are an important contribution to the 14-19 curriculum. There were also many instances when learners progressed towards work based learning programmes and, in particular, to apprenticeships.

References

Wolf, A. (2011). *Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report* (DFE-00031-2011). London: Department for Education.

Full paper

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