



SFBac

SUBJECTS SKILLS VALUES BREADTH

www.sfcf.org.uk

*The SFBac**

Raising *the* Standard.

A Guide for Employers, Colleges and Universities



**The Sixth Form Baccalaureate*

“a significant contribution nationally to define what counts as an educated 19-year-old”

Dr Jackie Johnston
Principal, The College
of Richard Collyer

Subjects Skills+ Values+ Breadth



The Sixth Form Colleges Forum Sixth Form Baccalaureate (SFBac) Pilot Scheme.

Sixth Form Colleges specialise in full-time 16-19 education. They offer a wide range of academic and vocational courses mainly at Level 3 but also at Levels 1 and 2. Sixth Form Colleges believe in providing students with an excellent all-round education to prepare them for life, work and citizenship. As a result, students in Sixth Form Colleges undertake a wide range of courses and activities beyond their basic examination courses. This includes an impressive range of enrichment opportunities and activities as well as support and guidance that is tailored to the age range.

In this context the Sixth Form Colleges Forum (SFCF), the national representative body for designated Sixth Form Colleges, has designed a curriculum framework – the SFBac – to encapsulate what it understands by a “good sixth form education”.

The pilot phase of the SFBac project began in 2009 and will end in 2012. Eleven Sixth Form Colleges, geographically spread and diverse in their curriculum offers, were involved at the outset and more are being added each year. For the full list of participating colleges please visit www.sfcf.org.uk/sfbac



The Aims of the SFBac

The SFBac aims to:

- Define and endorse the philosophy of the all-round education in Sixth Form Colleges on the basis of “subjects, skills, values, and breadth”
- Recognise the diversity of student learning programmes and ensure that their educational experience isn’t just about taking exams
- Help prepare students for continuing education, life, work and citizenship
- Add value to student applications into further and higher education by giving credit to the full range of courses, activities and experiences which a Sixth Form College curriculum provides
- Be a kite-mark of curriculum quality, appreciated by students and their parents and understood and valued by the wider educational community and by employers

It is anticipated that the first SFBac certificates will be awarded in Summer 2011 but the Award is a work in progress. During the pilot phase we hope that students, parents, staff, employers and universities will work with us to review both the concept and the practicalities of the SFBac.

To find out more and contribute to this exciting project please visit our website:
www.sfcf.org.uk/sfbac



The SFBac framework in general:

In terms of *time*, student learning programmes which fulfil the following time requirements will qualify for the SFBac at levels 1, 2 and 3.

	Subjects	Skills and Values	Total
Levels 1 & 2 SFBac	450 hours minimum	100 hours minimum	550 hours
Level 3 SFBac	900 hours minimum	200 hours minimum	1100 hours
SFBac with Commendation – at both levels	Students who have completed a wider range of courses and commitments and/or have made an exceptional contribution may be awarded an SFBac with commendation		

In terms of *content* student learning programmes should provide experiences on the basis of the following four elements:-

- 1. **Subjects:** A levels, BTECs, GCSEs etc
 - 2. **Skills:** Learning and life skills
 - 3. **Values:** Citizenship and community learning
- } 4. **Breadth**

And in more detail...

	Element	Details	
1	Subjects	These are the main examination courses taken by students which constitute the bulk of their learning programmes and support progression through to employment, further or higher education.	4. Breadth Breadth is achieved through learning programmes which contain courses and activities in two or more of the SFBac domains* and which meet SFBac requirements in terms of skills and values as well as subjects.
2	Skills: <i>Learning & life skills</i>	a) The term "learning skills" incorporates courses and activities undertaken to help students develop generic study skills, key or functional skills, thinking skills and the capacity to learn independently b) The "Life skills" element of the SFBac encompasses those parts of sixth form education which help prepare students to meet confidently the challenges of adult life, including issues relating to finance, health, higher education and the world of employment.	
3	Values: <i>Citizenship & community learning</i>	This element includes courses and activities which demonstrate learning, involvement and commitment in relation to local, national and global communities. These may range from an AS-level in Citizenship to fundraising for a local charity, taking an active part in the college Amnesty International Group or voluntary work in a primary school.	

*The four domains are: a) Arts and Culture; b) Business and Social Science; c) Humanities and Languages; d) Maths, Science and Technology



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