

Achieving Skills Excellence webinar – Competition activity in the curriculum: raising the standard of study programmes for students with SEND Wednesday 21 March 2018 12:30PM



Are you keen to ensure that the vocational skills your students with SEND are developing meet employers' high standards?

Are you committed to giving all your students the opportunity to be the best they can be? If you are interested in trying new teaching approaches and working with your industry partners to set the standards, then engaging your learners in competition activity could be for you.

This web share will provide practical tips and guidance to support practitioners in:

- using competition activity in the vocational curriculum
- raising standards through engaging in competition
- getting employers on board

We know that competition activity in vocational education is an effective tool for raising both sector-specific skills and wider employability skills. Evidence from practice clearly shows that this approach works as effectively for learners with SEND as it does for all other learners. It raises aspirations, creates the opportunity to excel and perhaps most importantly provides a vehicle for showcasing skills to potential employers.

The value of using competition activity in the curriculum has been recognised by Ofsted who have noted the positive impact on skill development and learning.

A recent inspection report for Derwen College, an outstanding specialist college which routinely embeds competition into its vocational curriculum, praised the *'wide range of competitions and skills events (which) enable students to develop further their confidence and skills for work, perform under pressure and gain relevant, work-related experience'* (Derwen College Ofsted inspection report, April 2016).

Louise Keevil is an experienced FE SEND practitioner, who initiated and is leading on the [Inclusive Skills competitions](#) for Natspec. Louise is the Inclusive Skills Manager at Natspec and chairs the National Inclusive Skills focus group, sharing her knowledge and experience with a network of practitioners across the country.



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