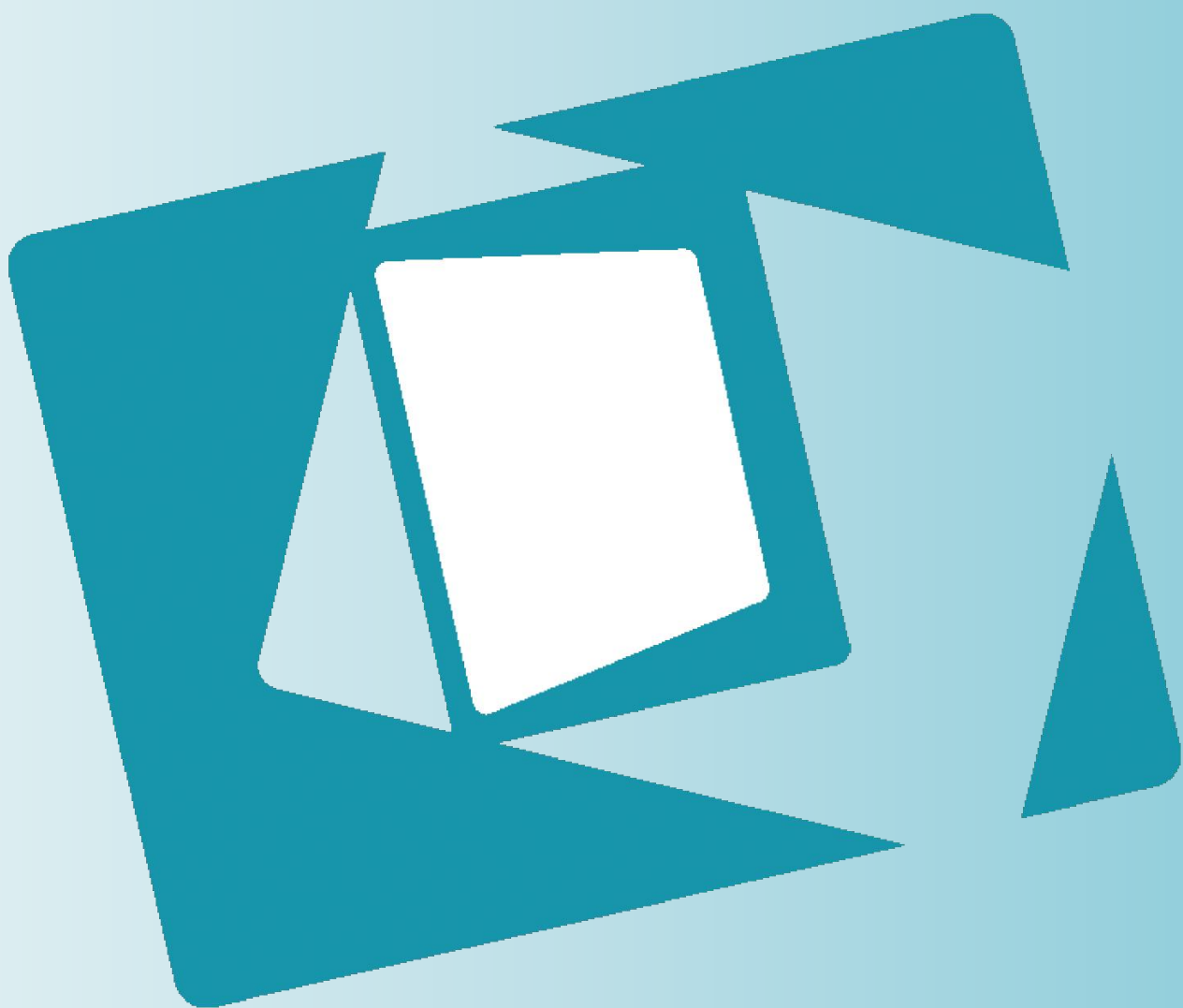


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# Manchester Communication Academy

## Options Booklet 2018

Options time is an important point in your education, as it is here that you get to choose some of the subjects that you will study for the next two or three years. We know that it can be a difficult time and can cause anxiety because there are a lot of questions that you might have: Which subject is right for me? What if I don't know what career I want to go into? Rest assured that we will help you to make choices about your future learning that are right for you.

This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents/carers. It will help you to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your aspirations, skills and needs.

Please use all the information available to you: this booklet; advice from teachers; your progress leaders and your parents. All of these people know you in some way and may be able to suggest whether they think a subject would suit you as a learner.

We want to offer as much individual choice as we can, so that students can follow courses they need for interest and their future career paths. We urge that all students opt for a *broad and balanced curriculum*. Whilst all GCSEs have equal status, they do stress different skills and ways of learning. When making choices students must balance their skills and preferred way of learning in order to keep options open for later life, such as choosing a college or A level courses.

We hope that the information allows you to make the right choices that will see you succeeding over the next couple of years and beyond.



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## Top Tips for Choosing Subjects

You should remember these:

### Dos

- ✓ DO choose subjects which you like
- ✓ DO choose subjects at which you are successful
- ✓ DO choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education
- ✓ DO find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it.
- ✓ DO talk to the people who know you
- ✓ DO listen to the advice your subject teachers give you

### Don'ts

- × DON'T choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it
- × DON'T choose a subject just because you like - or dislike - a particular teacher, they may not end up teaching you



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# The MCA Offer

## CORE Learning: What does everyone do?

Everybody will be taught core subjects which we refer to in this booklet as Essential Learning. These are the subjects and skills that are statutory for all children aged 14-16, with the addition of English Literature, which we feel is important, so is studied by everyone.

### Essential Learning comprises:

- English
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Separate Science / Combined Science)
- PE

In addition to these subjects we have a two phased approach for students to select additional learning. Phase one is happening now and phase two will be happening in the spring term of year 9.

### Phase 1. Additional Learning: What can you choose?

We want you to have opportunities to study creative and practical subjects and so we allow you to choose three subjects that make up your Additional Learning in year 9. These subjects are listed in this booklet. Two of these subject will be compete at the end of year 10 and one will be completed in year 11.

### Phase 2. Additional Learning: What can you choose?

Whilst we do give as much choice as possible, you will be expected to take one humanities subject either History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language. You will select these options during the Spring term in year 9. These courses will be completed at the end of year 11.

Art	Engineering
3D Design	Computer Science
Textiles	Digital Media
Graphics	Music
Photography	Performing Arts
Dance	Food & Cookery
Sports & Fitness	Health & Social Care
RE	Child Development

Year 8 Option choices

History
Geography
French
Spanish
Community Languages

Year 9 Option choices

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# Community Languages

Do you speak a language other than English at home?  
If so, you may be able to study this at GCSE

## What languages are available?

All of the languages listed here are available to study at GCSE if you already speak it at home

Arabic
Bengali
Chinese
Classical Greek
Dutch
French
German
Greek
Gujarati
Italian
Japanese
Latin
Panjabi
Persian
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Spanish
Turkish
Urdu
Modern Hebrew

## What if I can speak and listen in that language but I can't read or write?

We can work with you to help you to develop the skills that you are less confident with

## Will this replace the language I am currently studying?

It can do, if your teachers feels that you will benefit from studying just your community language rather than French or Spanish. But if you are a talented linguist and are capable of learning both, then this can be arranged.



## Next Steps

If pursuing a community language is appropriate for you then indicate which language it is that you speak when you complete your option choices and indicate how confident you feel in listening, speaking, reading and writing.



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## Creative Arts Pathways

Choose Two pathway from this section

## Course Information

Art & Design is a practical, skills-based course that enables students to experiment with a range of media and materials throughout. Students will undertake different projects in order to generate a substantial portfolio of artwork, and will be required to respond to an externally set task at the end of the course.

## Key Skills

Painting, drawing, 3D design, digital media, textiles, ceramics, photography and print. Generating knowledge and practical understanding of art, design, craft and creative industries.

## Progression Post 16

Specialist courses or internships within Art & Design, Fine Art, 3D Design, Graphics, Textiles, Photography, Digital Media, Animation, A-level Art and Design.

## Career Opportunities

Independent practitioner  
Designer Illustrator

## Student Quotes

"I enjoy the art and design course as I have lots of choice in what I do"

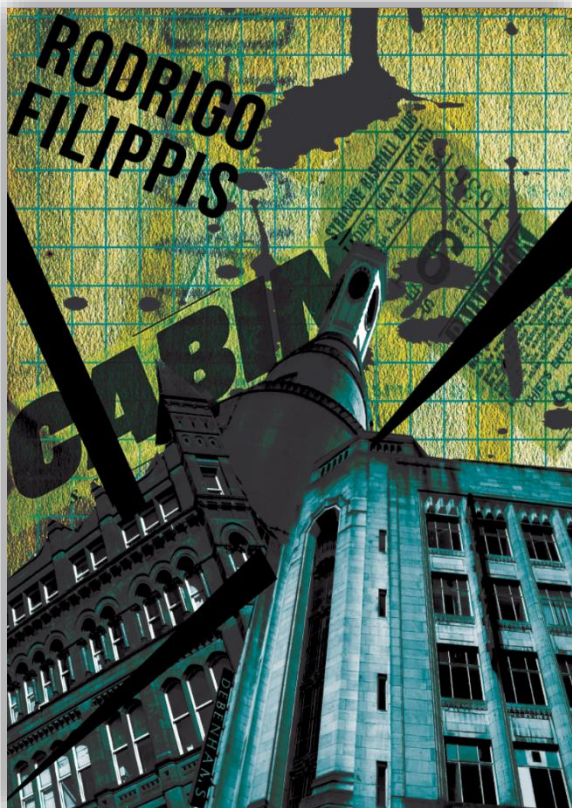
"We use lots of different media and materials and so I can use what I feel confident with"





## Course Information

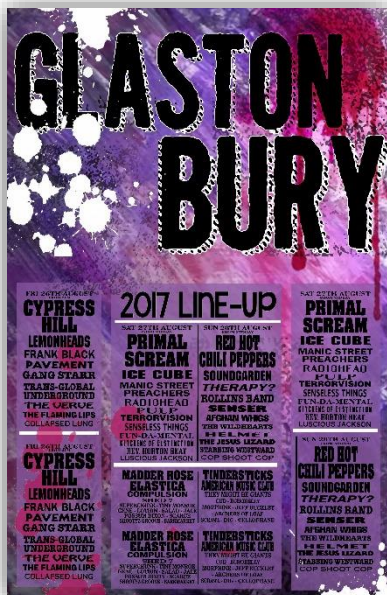
Graphic Communication is a practical, design-based course that enables students to experiment with a range of materials and techniques throughout. Students will undertake different projects in order to generate a substantial portfolio of artwork, and will be required to respond to an externally set task at the end of the course.



## Key Skills

Digital media – using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign. Typography, Calligraphy, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking.

Generating knowledge and understanding of the design industries.



## Progression Post 16

Specialist courses or internships that are design centred – Graphic Design, Print Making, Web Design, Games Design.

## Career Opportunities

Independent practitioner, Designer, Illustrator

## Student Quotes

"I am good at working on the I-macs and developing my work on Photoshop"

"I want to be a Games Designer and the work we do in Graphic Communication will help me to get on my college course"



## Course Information

Textiles is a practical, hands-on qualification that enables students to experiment with a range of materials and techniques. Students will undertake different projects in order to generate a substantial portfolio of work, and will be required to respond to an externally set task in the final stages of the course.



### Key Skills

Digital media – using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign. Typography, Calligraphy, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking.

Generating knowledge and understanding of the design industries.

### Progression Post 16

Specialist courses or internships that are design centred: Fashion, Textiles, surface pattern.

### Career Opportunities

Independent practitioner, Surface Pattern Designer, Fashion Buyer

### Student Quotes

"I like using the mannequins to create my work onto like a fashion designer would do"

"The best part of textiles is using the sewing machines to add different stitching to my fabric work"



## Course Information

3D Design is a practical course that enables students to experiment with a range of materials and techniques throughout. Students will undertake different projects in order to generate a substantial portfolio of work, and will be required to respond to an externally set task in the final stages of the course.



## Key Skills

CAD/CAM – 3D Printing, Laser cutting, 2D Design, Autodesk Inventor, CNC Router/Lathe, Vacuum Forming, Card Modelling, Hand tool skills, Casting, Forming and Woodwork, Glass Making and Clay

## Progression Post 16

- AS/A Level Product Design
- Extended Certificate in Art & Design
- Btec/level 3 diploma in Engineering
- Modern Apprenticeships

## Career Opportunities

Product designer, Engineer, Furniture Designer, Games Developer, Interior designer, Jewellery Designer, Prop Maker and CAD/CAM Designer/technician

## Student Quotes

” I enjoy the practical work we do in 3D, creating things with my hands as well as products that can be used”

“We use loads of different machines and equipment, I really like the work I have made on the laser cutter”



## Course Information

Photography is a practical course that enables students to learn a range of techniques and skills throughout. Students will undertake different projects in order to generate a substantial portfolio of work, and will be required to respond to an externally set task in the final stages.



## Key Skills

Camera handling techniques (Digital SLR) – controlling aperture, shutter speed, ISO. Editing skills – Photoshop, Camera RAW.

## Career Opportunities

Photographer  
film-maker videographer  
Studio/film director  
Post-production editor.

## Progression Post 16

Specialist Photography/Film courses.



## Student Quotes

" I like taking pictures using the Digital SLR cameras and changing them on Photoshop"

" I enjoy going out of school to Dove Holes and taking pictures in the countryside as well as going into Manchester City Centre"

## Information about the course

This Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the: development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire or responding to stimulus · a process that underpins effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance · attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication · knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.



## Key Skills

- Report writing, presentations, dealing with people, teamwork, working on own initiative, accepting and giving feedback, managing own learning and time-management, performance analysis, health & safety and working to deadlines.
- Practical skills in acting, singing and dance, how to put on a performance including the administration and production.



## Career Opportunities

Actor, choreographer, lecturer, broadcaster, presenter, theatre technician, dancer, therapist (dance/drama/music), teacher (dance/drama/music) and arts administrator/promoter.

## Progression Post 16

Level 3 qualifications including GCE AS or A levels in Drama and Theatre studies, Performing Arts, Music-based courses, Acting and Contemporary Dance.



## Student Quotes

*"When I'm performing, I feel like I am in an environment where I can be confident and actually express who I truly am."*

*"Singing is my passion and my hobby and by studying this qualification, I have the chance to take it further as a career."*



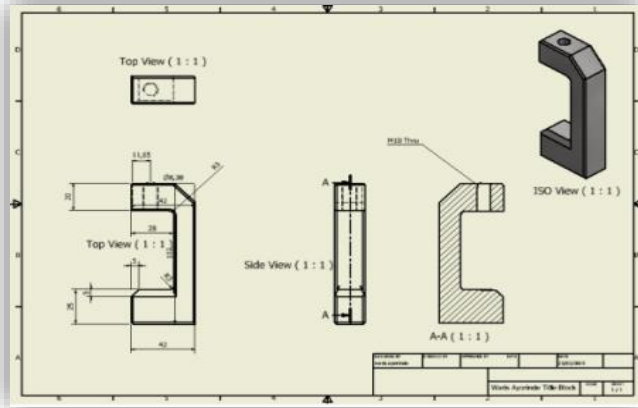
## Information about the course

This course provides an engaging, robust, broad-based introduction to engineering. It develops underpinning knowledge, understanding and practical skills that reflect the needs of employers and higher and further education professionals. It presents knowledge, skills and understanding in a meaningful work-related context, to allow students to understand theory and application. The course offers learners the opportunity to: gain a broad understanding and knowledge of a skills sector, investigate areas of specific interest, develop essential skills and attributes prized by employers.



## Key Skills

Broad understanding and knowledge of the engineering sector, focused understanding of engineering using CAD/CAM, application of a range of tests on engineering materials, personal skills and techniques, through the selection of optional units that are essential for successful performance in working life.



## Progression Post 16

- BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Engineering or Electrical/Electronic Engineering.
- GCE AS or A Levels in Engineering or Design and Technology-Product Design.
- Modern Apprenticeships

## Career Opportunities

- CAD/CAM technician.
- Civil Engineering
- Architect / Structural
- Electrical
- Mechanical



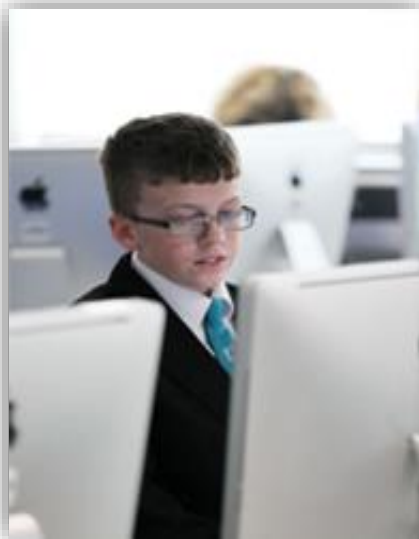
## Student Voice

*"I didn't know what engineering was, but now I know it's all around us!"*

*"I didn't know there were so many areas of engineering"*

## Information about the course

This course is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and has IT at the heart. It provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field from pre-production skills to digital animation and has a motivating, hands-on approach to both teaching and learning. The course delivers skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things. Interest in the creative and low level technical aspects of computing is desirable.



## Key Skills

Photoshop/Illustrator, Creating websites using HTML and CSS (Dreamweaver), Creating multi-platform Mobile/Web Apps (App Shed), Introduction to programming concepts (Scratch or Python) Theoretical understand of project planning and management.



## Progression Post 16

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media
- Graphic products and Design
- Digital platforms and technologies
- Information and Creative Technologies
- Computer Science with Mobile App development
- Multimedia and web design.



## Career Opportunities

Digital Media production industry including web, video, graphics and video games.

## Student Voice

*"I've learned so much about digital graphic, games and web production during iMedia lessons!"*

*"I always thought building websites with code was too difficult until I built my project website in iMedia, now I can use HTML and CSS to build any site I want."*



## Information about the course

This course gives students a real in-depth understanding of how computer technology works, providing excellent preparation for further study and employment in computer science. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes' including computer programming. The course develops critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills which can then be applied in a number of contexts including app design, robotics and web development.



## Key Skills

Programming in Python, HTML, Java script and low level coding. Computational thinking, Boolean logic.

Systems analysis, algorithm, and flowchart representation.



## Progression Post 16

- A/AS Level Computing.
- Media and interactive technologies.
- Modern Apprenticeships



## Career Opportunities

Software/Web/App development, Hardware maintenance/development, Networking.

## Student Voice

*"I thought programming was a boys thing and too hard for me – turns out I'm better than most of the boys and I really enjoy coding!"*

*"Computer Science isn't just about the coding – I want to be a network engineer and Computer Science has given me the opportunity to follow this career path in to college."*





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## Health and Wellbeing Pathways

Choose one pathway from this section

## Information about the course

This course gives students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. Students will also develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sport industry. Students will look at the changes taking place within the body during exercise.



## Key Skills

Communication, problem solving, team working, evaluations and analysis, performing under pressure, formulating written findings from practical investigations.



## Progression Post 16

- Apprenticeship Framework
- Personal Training & Leisure Management
- A Level Physical Education
- Vocational Qualification, Certificate/NVQ Diploma
- Level3 Sport Qualifications

## Career Opportunities

Teacher, sports development officer, sports coach, sports manager, sport and leisure manager, personal trainer, physiotherapist, Dietician and Sports Psychologist

## Student Quotes:

“I enjoyed the practical aspect of this course and applying my skills and talents.”

“I can help you in all parts of PE if you want to take a future career in it and is a enjoyable course”.





## Information about the course

Cooking is an essential part of developing healthy lifestyles. Food is the fuel we need to survive – there is nothing more important than having knowledge and skills to produce delicious, nutritious meals and contributing to the health of future generations.

This course is designed for students who have an interest in food and cookery and will provide experience of using different cooking techniques and methods. It will give them an understanding of the skills required for a career in food.



## Key Skills

Organisation, planning, preparation, communication (verbal, written & ICT), health awareness, sensory analysis, teamwork, independence, time management, portion control, precision, design and creativity.

## Progression Post 16

- Level 3 Food Science
- Level 3 Food and Cookery
- Level 3 Award in Nutrition for Physical Activity
- Hospitality and Culinary Arts
- Certificate in General Patisserie and Confectionary



## Career Opportunities

Chef, Dietician, Personal Trainer

## Student Quotes:

"I like food because we get to make dishes we don't make at home"

"I enjoy learning about nutrition and health and finding ways to make dishes healthier"

"I like being able to use a range of cooking skills and present my food to a high standard"



## Information about the course:

Religious Studies gives students an opportunity to explore challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God and other ethical issues. Religious studies provides a great opportunity for students to engage with current issues; developing social, cultural and moral awareness. It encourages philosophical thought and decision making skills, allowing them to discuss and analyse topics they encounter in society and through the media. Religious studies will help students to develop their own values and beliefs, gaining a greater sense of their own identity.

The AQA course includes:

In-depth study of religions of Christianity & Islam  
(practices, beliefs and teachings)

Theme B: Religion and life

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment



### Progression Post 16:

A-Level Religious Studies,

A-level Philosophy

A-level Theology

The subject develops skills recognised in other humanities degree subjects including history, politics and law

### Further Progression opportunities:

Police, Teaching, Medicine, Journalism, Law, Social Work. The Armed Forces, politics,

### Student Quotes:

“RE has given me the confidence and understanding to discuss current issues”

“In a world with such a media influence RE has never been more relevant than in today's society”

### Key Skills:

Students learn how to think critically, listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully and write clearly. Students also learn the skills of debating, evaluating and analysing. These transferable skills will be of great use in a multitude of careers.

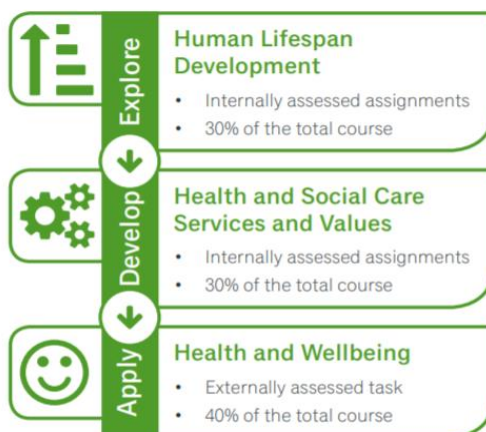


## Information about the course

The BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care is a practical introduction to the broad career sector that is health care and social care. Around three million people work in these sectors in a vast array of jobs. By selecting this course you will develop knowledge and understanding of the sector, appreciate the importance of the care values, analyse and evaluate your skills by applying them to real life scenarios.

### Course structure:

There are three components, two of which are internally assessed through assignments such as report writing and role play. The third component is externally assessed. The components build on each other so that the students grow in confidence by the time they complete component 3, which draws on all their knowledge to produce a health and wellbeing improvement plan.



### Career opportunities:

Counsellor, Social worker, Dentist, Midwife, GP, Nurse, Care Assistant, Doctor



### Progression Post 16

- BTEC Nationals Level 3 in Health and Social Care
- A level in Health and Social Care
- Apprenticeships in health care or social care



### Student Quotes:

"I enjoy HSC because I like learning about how people change through different life stages."

"HSC is really interesting, you have to work hard but I love the challenge."

"I like HSC because it will prepare me for a job in the health or social care sector."

"I didn't really know what HSC was but I am really enjoying the course."



## Information about the course

This course looks at child development and growth up to the age of 5, how children learn through play, meeting individual needs in practical learning environments. Students will look at factors which affect growth, reasons why children need support and supporting children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. The course has elements of controlled assessment work, along with a written synoptic exam.

### Key Skills:

Resilience, Teamwork,  
Communication, Empathy,  
Problem Solving, Cognitive Skills,  
Social interactions, Time  
Management, Organisation,  
Speaking and Listening Qualities.



### Progression Post 16

BTEC Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development  
BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care



### Career opportunities:

Early Years Teacher, Family Support  
Worker, Learning Mentor, Primary School  
Teacher, Secondary School Teacher,  
Special Education Needs Teacher, Social  
Worker, Youth Worker, Child  
Psychotherapist, Children's Nurse,  
Community Development Worker,  
Counsellor, Education Psychologist and  
Speech and Language Therapist.



# My Pathway to Success

Please highlight your preferred two choices from each column.

Name: .....

## Option 1

Art  
3d Design  
Textiles  
Graphics  
Photography  
Engineering  
Computer Science  
Digital Media  
Music  
Performing arts  
Dance

## Option 2

Sports & Fitness  
Food & Cookery  
Health & Social Care  
RE  
Child Development

## Option 3

Photography  
Engineering  
Music  
Performing arts  
Computer Science  
Digital Media  
Dance

## Option 1

1st	
2nd	

## Option 2

1st	
2nd	

## Option 3

1st	
2nd	

We make every effort to ensure that students study the course they opt for. On some occasions this is not always possible so this is why we ask that you to make a reserve option choice. Any student who does not get their top three choices or their reserve choices will be seen by a member of staff to discuss alternatives.



*“We believe passionately in the power of an excellent education to transform lives and provide new opportunities for young people. We provide an exciting and challenging experience for our students in a supportive and caring environment.*

*The proof of our success is demonstrated by the quality of the daily experience we provide for young people. We have the highest expectations in term of teaching, learning and the standards our students achieve. We work on the principles that every child can be successful”*

Mr J Rowlands  
Principal

# Manchester Communication Academy

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