

16-19 Study Programme explained

Colleges and sixth forms will be expected to offer each student a **16-19 Study Programme** based on their prior attainment, and designed to meet clear educational and career aspirations.

Maths and English

All students who haven't achieved a C grade in GCSE maths and English by the end of Key Stage 4 will have to continue to study those subjects.

Where GCSE A*-C English and maths is not immediately attainable, students can study other English and maths qualifications such as Functional Skills and Free Standing Maths qualifications as 'interim' or 'stepping stone' qualifications on the journey towards achievement of a GCSE.

What are the aims of the 16-19 study programme?

All students should be given the opportunity to follow a course that:

- Provides progression to a level higher than that of their prior attainment
- Includes qualification(s) that are clearly linked to suitable progression opportunities in training, employment or higher levels of education.
- Requires students to work towards GCSE A* – C grade in Maths and English (or other qualifications that will act as a stepping stone for achievement of these qualifications in time).
- Allows for meaningful work experience related to the vocational area of the Study Programme, which develops employability skills and/or creates potential employment options.
- Includes other activities unrelated to qualifications that develop the skills, attitudes and confidence that support progression, including work experience.

What if I am taking 'A' levels?

- All students at whatever level will enroll on a Study Programme. However students following 'A' level courses are unlikely to make substantial changes to their study programme in order to meet the new requirements.
- Colleges and sixth forms are being encouraged to provide opportunities like continuing with study of maths at level 3 and might include non-qualification activity such as work to develop personal or study skills or support in choosing options for employment and higher education

What if I am taking vocational qualifications?

- Students will be expected to study at least one substantial vocational qualification, to provide a route into a trade, profession or other form of employment, or access to a university or higher education course.

- These qualifications should make up the majority of the Study Programme time, and in most cases these qualifications will be at a level above the student's prior achievement.
- Some students may not be ready to achieve a substantial qualification, so this element of the Study Programme may consist of substantial work experience and English and maths, working towards GCSE if they have still to achieve these qualifications at Grade C or above.
- For those planning to move onto higher education or further training, work experience or other kinds of work-related education can help students select the course and career path which best suits them.

What if I am on a traineeship?

- Traineeships will be part of a 16-19 Study Programmes for those students who are committed to securing an Apprenticeship or other employment.
- Traineeships will prepare young people for an Apprenticeship or sustainable work by offering a high quality work placement, work preparation training, and English and Maths.

What if I am a student who needs support?

- The needs of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD) can vary widely, but the Study Programme principles will still apply.
- Students should follow a programme that supports their progression into work or further study. For students with LDD who have a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), a Study Programme applies up to the age of 25.
- Students will be assessed as to the type of programme that is most suitable given their career aspirations.
- Study Programmes for students with profound and/or complex learning difficulties may also concentrate on work experience rather than qualifications (for example Supported Internships for students with more complex needs) or other non-qualification activities that will prepare them for adult life.
- Study Programmes should always include English and Maths but at an appropriate level.