



Newton Bridge Academy

Post 16 Policy

September 2025

POST 16 POLICY

The Post 16 department at Newton Bridge Academy aims to meet the individual needs of the young people in the areas of personal, social, academic and vocational development. The aim is to prepare students for the adult world, and for working and living in the community.

The Post 16 curriculum offers progression from Key Stage 4 both academically and by promoting life skills and independence in preparation for adult life. The 14-18 department sees Post 16 as a transition phase in the continuing life and educational pathway for our students. The aims identified for students are achieved through a broad and balanced curriculum which involves vocational and academic educational opportunities, as well as developing independence and social skills. The aim is to prepare the students for adulthood.

Accreditation

Accreditation underpins the Post 16 programmes. Students will follow accreditation in English and Maths at an appropriate level.

We have two pathways – an exam pathway and a coursework pathway. The exam pathway is where students complete Functional Skills in English and maths at an appropriate level and sit end of course assessments at the end of Year 13.

The coursework pathway is where students complete several modules of ASDAN Lifeskills Challenge program over the course of the two years. The students are baselined when they join Post16 and in consultation with parents, carers and the students themselves, are put on the most suitable pathway. Reviews happen regularly throughout the year to check students are still on the most suitable pathway.

Numeracy skills are developed through practical situations and experiences, including cooking and shopping. Communication skills are developed, with the use of communication aids where appropriate.

Students have access to other accreditation in Post 16. Students also work towards achieving a certificate or award in ASDAN Personal and Social Development qualification, which develops their independence skills in both the community and in the management of their own learning.

Students in Post 16 also access vocational learning based, which includes creative arts, outdoor education and archery, which are also accredited and used towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

For students with more complex needs there is a sensory approach to the curriculum which will help to develop communication and social skills.

Post 16 keeps up to date with the changing government policies.

Students in Post 16 follow the same procedures as other students across the school.

- All students have a Personal Education Plan with targets taken from their current EHC plan.
- All students have a Personal Support Plan (PSP) to ensure staff understand how best to meet their needs
- A careers education programme is in place following the government guidance and adhering to the Gatsby Benchmark requirements. Independent careers advice is provided by our Careers Leader We also ensure we cover the Provider Access clause, which is vocational learning, through our accreditation pathway.

- All accreditation is internally verified by school staff and then externally verified. If a student is working at Level 1 or Level 2 Functional Skills, then this is an externally verified assessment.
- Accreditation achieved by students can be tracked throughout the 14-18 department.

Work Related Learning

Students in the 14-19 department take part in internal and external experiences of work. Some students are given the opportunity to shadow school staff. External work experience involves working in places such as local cafes, primary schools and community groups. This could be a supported or independent placement.

As part of ASDAN Lifeskills Challenge, our students follow either a horticulture or hospitality pathway which includes accreditations in the relevant fields (including Food Hygiene certificate). These placements include hands on experience within the workplace and the opportunity to make a difference within the local community.

Preparing for Adulthood (Life Skills)

Post 16 students are encouraged to be as independent as possible. This includes taking responsibility for their own personal presentation, including cleaning and personal hygiene. We have dedicated Preparing for Adulthood sessions where students develop their independence in the community, using public transport, practise developing their cleaning skills, recognising how to manage a home and basic first aid. They will also handle money in practical situations and plan for, shop and prepare basic meals.

Post 16 follow the Preparing for Adulthood curriculum, where they work towards individual targets across a range of areas. They learn about their changing roles and responsibilities in society as they move into adulthood.

Post 16 also use their life skills during break times, where they have the opportunity to make themselves a hot drink under supervision. They are expected to keep track of supplies of tea, coffee, milk etc and add to the shopping list when they are running low.

Careers Advice and Guidance

Careers advice and guidance is delivered throughout the 14-19 curriculum as appropriate. Post 16 students have access to targeted support input and impartial careers advice. This is planned into the curriculum but there is also the opportunity to discuss plans for the future in individual EHCP meetings.

Community Links

Links with the local community are encouraged. These include regular links with places which provide work experience placements. Students also get opportunities to engage with specific projects and working with local community support officers about staying safe using social media.

Informally, Post 16 students access the local community to practice life skills, such as shopping.

All Post 16 students take part in the school's travel training program and develop the skills to access the community safely.

As part of the 14-19 department, Post 16 students take part in charitable events which are both local and national.

EHCP Reviews

Students in Post 16 are encouraged to express their hopes for the future. An action plan is put into place to help enable the students to achieve their desired goals. This might include arranging appropriate work experience or liaising with other external agencies.

Transition Opportunities and Provision after Newton Bridge Academy

Newton Bridge Academy maintains a close working relationship with local colleges, which are frequently the destination of Post 16 students on leaving school. Every November, we host a Careers Fair, which is well supported by local colleges, employers and providers from within our geographical area.

Weekly visits to Grantham College as a vital part of our Post 16 timetable. We also facilitate visits to colleges and other possible provisions to make transition process more informed and prepared for the students, parents and carers.

There is also regular contact with the Careers and Enterprise Service who give advice, assess and provide services for a specified group of learners.