SYON MANOR
COLLEGE

GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Curriculum Offer

Academic Year 2026–2027

Welcome! This guide explains every course your young person can study with us: what it covers, whether it is academic, vocational or about life skills, and whether there is an exam at the end. Each student follows their own learning plan, so they will take a selection of these courses, chosen with them and with you.

37 courses and qualifications

22 of them have no final exam

2 curriculum pathways

1–8 students in a class

What is in this booklet

Each course has a numbered card showing what students learn, the size and units, how it is assessed, entry requirements, the next step and its links to Preparing for Adulthood.

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Online version: this booklet is also available as an interactive web page with search filters. Course names and “Course page” buttons link to the awarding body’s website.

1 Start here: how courses work

A quick explainer of the words, levels and sizes you will see on every course card, and how we choose the right courses with your young person.

Academic
Classroom subjects with more reading and writing, such as A Levels and GCSEs.

Vocational
Practical, work-related courses that build skills for a job, such as cooking, gardening or hair and beauty.

Life skills
Courses that build independence and everyday skills, such as money, travel, cooking and self-care.

Core skills
English and maths, studied by every student at the level that is right for them.

Exam
A timed test, usually at the end of a course, marked by the exam board.

Coursework or portfolio
Work collected during the course. Teachers mark it and the exam board checks it. No big exam at the end.

Awarding body
The organisation that gives the certificate, for example Pearson, City & Guilds, AQA or ASDAN.

Guided learning hours
The time spent learning with teachers and tutors. It shows how big a course is.

Credits
Another way to measure size. One credit is about 10 hours of learning.

Preparing for Adulthood
The four life outcomes every course links to: employment, independent living, community inclusion and good health.

PLG and EHCP
A PLG is a Personal Learning Goal. It links to your young person's EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan).

Exam labels on each course: No exam coursework or practical only · Some exams mostly coursework, one or more tests · Exam at the end written or performance exam

About exams: where a course has an exam, we prepare students carefully and apply for access arrangements, such as extra time, a reader or a quiet room, for students who qualify.

Preparing for Adulthood: why every course matters

Every course links to one or more of the four Preparing for Adulthood outcomes used in EHCPs. Each course card shows which ones.

Employment
Skills and qualifications for work, volunteering, internships and apprenticeships.

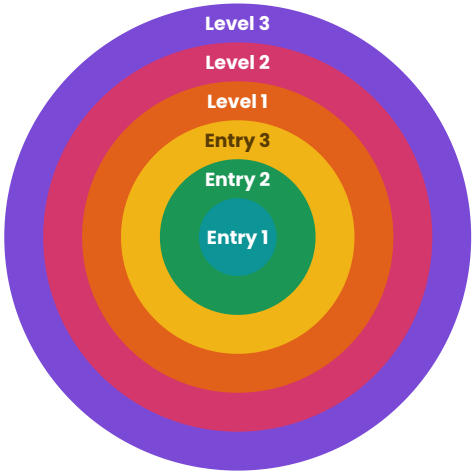
Independent living
Cooking, money, travel, self-care and making choices about where and how to live.

Community inclusion
Friendships, communication, using local services and taking part in community life.

Good health
Healthy routines, wellbeing, staying safe and knowing how to get help.

Level: how hard is it?

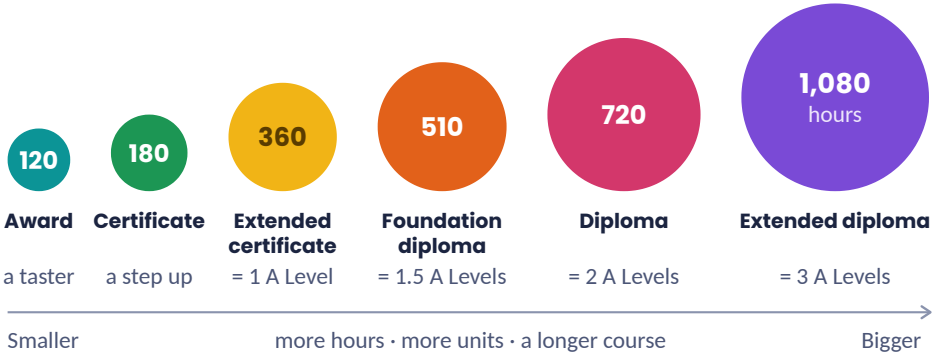
Each ring builds on the one inside it. Students move outwards when ready.



- **Level 3** — A Level, BTEC National
- **Level 2** — GCSE grades 9–4
- **Level 1** — GCSE grades 3–1
- **Entry 3** — Functional Skills E3
- **Entry 2** — Functional Skills E2
- **Entry 1** — Personal Progress

Size: how much is there?

Bigger circle, bigger course. Numbers show typical learning hours.



Size is not the same as level. The size tells you how big a course is. The level tells you how hard it is.

How we choose the right courses

1. Initial and baseline assessments

When your young person joins and in the first weeks, teachers carry out initial and baseline assessments in English, maths and practical skills to find the right starting level.

2. Agree the plan

We match courses to the assessment results, EHCP outcomes and Personal Learning Goals, and listen to your young person and to you.

3. Review and move up

Progress is reviewed every half-term. When a level is achieved, the natural next step is the level above.

Entry requirements: each course card lists the usual entry requirements. Placement is confirmed by the outcomes of our initial and baseline assessments, your young person's EHCP outcomes and a conversation with them and with you.

***Course length:** Recommended lengths are a guide only. How long a course takes depends on each student's individual abilities, needs and progress.

2 Our two curriculum pathways

Every student follows one of two pathways, chosen around their needs, strengths and goals. Both build towards adult life in three stages. Therapy, careers support and work experience are part of every week.

ISLEWORTH CAMPUS

Academic and Career Ready

For students who can study core academic subjects alongside vocational courses.

1 Foundational

Literacy, numeracy, ICT, therapy, vocational tasters and exploring careers.

2 Development

Workplace communication, functional maths, digital skills, health, employability and first work experience.

3 Career-focused

Workplace English and maths, longer placements, vocational training and planning the next step.

COURSES OFTEN TAKEN

- Functional Skills English and Maths
- Entry Level Certificates
- A Levels, AS, GCSE and IGCSE
- Vocational courses (BTEC, City & Guilds, NCFE, VTCT, RSL)
- Sports Leadership
- Future Works: café and thrift shop
- Unit Award Scheme
- Managing Your Money

ASTON HOUSE AND VINE HOUSE

Skills and Vocational Development

For students who learn best through a practical, hands-on approach.

1 Stage 1

Self-care, basic cooking, household tasks, community awareness, social skills and early workplace behaviour.

2 Stage 2

Managing health, cooking and budgeting, money skills, volunteering, relationships and supervised work experience.

3 Stage 3

Independent living, travel, taking part in the community, speaking up for themselves and supported employment.

COURSES OFTEN TAKEN

- ASDAN Personal Progress
- ASDAN LifeSkills Challenges
- Entry Level Functional Skills
- Entry Level Certificates
- Future Works: café and thrift shop
- Unit Award Scheme

A natural progression route

Students start at the step that suits them and move up as each level is achieved. Not every student takes every step.

Pre-Entry and Entry 1
ASDAN Personal Progress, LifeSkills Challenges

Entry 2 to Entry 3
Entry Level Functional Skills, Entry Level Certificates, UAS bridge units

Level 1
Functional Skills Level 1, BTEC Introductory, City & Guilds, NCFE

Level 2
Functional Skills Level 2, GCSE, IGCSE, BTEC Tech Award, VTCT, NCFE Level 2

Level 3
BTEC Nationals, A Levels and AS Levels

3 Quick guide to every course

Every course on one page, with its type, level and whether there is an exam. The number matches the course card later in this booklet.

NO.	COURSE	TYPE	LEVEL	EXAM?
1	**Functional Skills English** · Entry Levels 1 to 3	Core skills	Entry 1–3	No exam
2	**Functional Skills Maths** · Entry Levels 1 to 3	Core skills	Entry 1–3	No exam
3	**Functional Skills English** · Levels 1 and 2	Core skills	Level 1–2	Exam at the end
4	**Functional Skills Maths** · Levels 1 and 2	Core skills	Level 1–2	Exam at the end
5	**Entry Level Certificate English** · ELC	Core skills	Entry 1–3	No exam
6	**Entry Level Certificate Maths** · ELC	Core skills	Entry 1–3	No exam
7	**Unit Award Scheme** · Bridge units in English, Maths and Hospitality	Core skills	Short units	No exam
8	**A Level Maths** · Two-year course	Academic	Level 3	Exam at the end
9	**A Level Biology** · Two-year course	Academic	Level 3	Exam at the end
10	**A Level Physics** · Two-year course	Academic	Level 3	Exam at the end
11	**A Level Psychology** · Two-year course	Academic	Level 3	Exam at the end
12	**AS Level Psychology** · One-year course	Academic	Level 3 (AS)	Exam at the end
13	**AS Level English** · One-year course	Academic	Level 3 (AS)	Exam at the end
14	**GCSE Psychology** · GCSE grades 1–9	Academic	Level 1–2	Exam at the end
15	**IGCSE Accounting** · Same level as a GCSE	Academic	Level 1–2	Exam at the end
16	**BTEC Health and Social Care** · Level 1 Introductory	Vocational	Level 1	No exam
17	**BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	Some exams
18	**BTEC National Health and Social Care** · Level 3	Vocational	Level 3	Some exams
19	**BTEC Applied Science** · Level 1 Introductory	Vocational	Level 1	No exam
20	**BTEC First Business** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	Some exams

NO.	COURSE	TYPE	LEVEL	EXAM?
21	**BTEC National Business** · Level 3 (BTEC Nationals)	Vocational	Level 3	Some exams
22	**BTEC WorkSkills** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	No exam
23	**BTEC Home Cooking Skills** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	No exam
24	**BTEC First Hospitality** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	Some exams
25	**BTEC Hair and Beauty** · Level 1 Introductory	Vocational	Level 1	No exam
26	**VTCT Hair and Beauty Skills** · Level 2 Certificate	Vocational	Level 2	No exam
27	**Practical Horticulture Skills** · Level 1	Vocational	Level 1	No exam
28	**Motor Vehicle Systems Maintenance** · Entry Level 3	Vocational	Entry 3	No exam
29	**Art and Design** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	No exam
30	**Photography** · Levels 1 and 2	Vocational	Level 1–2	No exam
31	**Carpentry** · Unit Award Scheme	Vocational	Short units	No exam
32	**Game Design** · Creative Digital Media, Levels 1 to 3	Vocational	Level 1–3	No exam
33	**Sports Leadership** · Level 1	Vocational	Level 1	No exam
34	**Future Works** · Real work experience in our café and thrift shop	Future Works	All levels	No exam
35	**ASDAN Personal Progress** · Entry Level 1	Life skills	Entry 1	No exam
36	**ASDAN LifeSkills Challenges** · Pre-Entry to Level 3	Life skills	All abilities	No exam
37	**Managing Your Money** · Level 1 Award	Life skills	Level 1	No exam
★	**PSHE** · Weekly lessons for every student	For everyone	All students	No exam
★	**Citizenship** · Regular lessons for every student	For everyone	All students	No exam
★	**Enrichment carousel** · Monday and Friday afternoons	For everyone	All students	No exam

English and Maths

4

Every student studies English and maths at the level that is right for them. These courses build the reading, writing, speaking and number skills needed for daily life and work.

*Lengths shown are recommended and depend on each student's individual abilities.

Separate units

A Unit Award Scheme unit can stand on its own. Your young person gets an AQA certificate for each unit they complete, listing exactly what they achieved. Small steps are recognised straight away.

Bridge qualification

Units can also be linked together as a bridge to a full qualification. A bridge is used when a student is not yet ready for the whole qualification, or is working between two levels. It breaks the skills into small, achievable steps so your young person can start the full course with confidence. We use bridge units to:

- prepare for the next qualification, for example English or maths units before Functional Skills or an Entry Level Certificate
- build practical skills first, for example food hygiene and kitchen safety units before Home Cooking or catering
- fill gaps found in initial and baseline assessments
- recognise progress for students who join mid-year or need more time
- make sure every achievement is certificated, even when a full qualification is not yet complete

Good to know: the Unit Award Scheme is a nationally recognised record of achievement run by AQA, rather than a qualification. We use it for English, maths and hospitality bridge units, and for carpentry.

1 CORE SKILLS

Functional Skills English

Entry Levels 1 to 3

Entry 1–3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Everyday reading and writing: signs, labels, short messages, forms and spelling, plus speaking and listening in real situations.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Up to 1 year for each Entry level

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- A separate qualification at each of Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, about 55 guided learning hours each
- Three parts to pass at each level: Reading, Writing, and Speaking, Listening and Communicating

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Short tasks in class, taken when your young person is ready. Pearson sets the reading and writing tasks, the teacher marks them and Pearson checks the marking.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualification needed. Outcomes from our initial and baseline English assessments show whether to start at Entry 1, 2 or 3.

NEXT STEP

The next Entry level, then Functional Skills English Level 1 once Entry 3 is achieved.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living | Community inclusion

Reading signs, filling in forms and speaking up are skills used at work, at home and out in the community.

2 CORE SKILLS

Functional Skills Maths

Entry Levels 1 to 3

Entry 1–3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Counting, money, time, measuring, shapes and simple charts, using real-life examples such as shopping and timetables.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Up to 1 year for each Entry level

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- A separate qualification at each of Entry 1, Entry 2 and Entry 3, about 55 guided learning hours each
- One maths assessment to pass at each level

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

One maths task in class, taken when your young person is ready. Pearson sets it, the teacher marks it and Pearson checks the marking.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualification needed. Outcomes from our initial and baseline maths assessments show whether to start at Entry 1, 2 or 3.

NEXT STEP

The next Entry level, then Functional Skills Maths Level 1 once Entry 3 is achieved.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Independent living | Employment

Handling money, time and measures underpins budgeting, shopping, cooking and travelling independently.

3 CORE SKILLS

Functional Skills English

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Reading longer texts, writing emails, letters and short reports, and taking part in discussions and presentations.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

About 1 year for each level

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- A separate qualification at Level 1 and at Level 2, about 55 guided learning hours each
- Three parts to pass: a Reading exam, a Writing exam, and Speaking, Listening and Communicating

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Reading and writing exams (on screen or on paper), marked by Pearson, plus a speaking and listening assessment in class.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Functional Skills English Entry 3, or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing secure Entry 3 skills. Level 2: usually Level 1 achieved.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 is widely accepted in place of a GCSE English grade 4, and opens the door to Level 3 courses, apprenticeships and work.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Community inclusion

Clear written and spoken English is one of the skills employers ask for most.

4 CORE SKILLS

Functional Skills Maths

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Using maths to solve real problems: budgets, percentages, measurements, area, reading graphs and finding the best value.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

About 1 year for each level

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- A separate qualification at Level 1 and at Level 2, about 55 guided learning hours each
- One exam with a non-calculator section and a calculator section

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

One maths exam (on screen or on paper), marked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Functional Skills Maths Entry 3, or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing secure Entry 3 skills. Level 2: usually Level 1 achieved.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 is widely accepted in place of a GCSE maths grade 4, and opens the door to Level 3 courses, apprenticeships and work.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living

Working out costs, budgets and quantities is part of every job and every household.

5 CORE SKILLS

Entry Level Certificate English

ELC

Entry 1–3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Reading, writing, speaking and listening, following GCSE-style topics at an easier level.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** | Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One qualification, awarded at Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3
- Three components at every level: Speaking and Listening, Writing, and Reading

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

All three components are completed in class, marked by the teacher and checked (moderated) by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualification needed. Outcomes from our initial and baseline assessments show which Entry level to aim for.

NEXT STEP

Functional Skills English, or GCSE-style English for students who are ready.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Community inclusion | Employment

Builds confidence to read, write and speak in everyday and work situations.

6 CORE SKILLS

Entry Level Certificate Maths

ELC

Entry 1–3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Number, measures, shape and data, following GCSE-style topics at an easier level.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **Pearson Edexcel** | Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One qualification, awarded at Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3
- Two short assessments at Entry 1 and Entry 2, and three at Entry 3

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Short assessments in class. Pearson sets them and the teacher marks them.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualification needed. Outcomes from our initial and baseline assessments show which Entry level to aim for.

NEXT STEP

Functional Skills Maths, or GCSE-style maths for students who are ready.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Independent living | Employment

Number skills for money, time, measuring and everyday decisions.

7 CORE SKILLS

Unit Award Scheme

Bridge units in English, Maths and Hospitality

Short units | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Short units that each cover one clear skill, for example reading a menu, using a timetable, handling money or food hygiene.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

A few weeks to one term for each unit

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Each unit is small and stands on its own. There is no set number to complete
- Used in two ways: as separate units, or as a bridge that prepares your young person for a full qualification when they are not yet ready for it (see the box above)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

The teacher checks evidence against the unit's outcomes. AQA issues a certificate for every completed unit, listing exactly what was achieved.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Open to every student at any level. Outcomes from initial assessment show which units to start with and the next target.

NEXT STEP

The qualification the bridge leads to, such as Functional Skills, an Entry Level Certificate or a vocational course.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living | Community inclusion

Each unit is chosen around a real skill your young person needs now.

Academic courses

5 For students on the Academic and Career Ready pathway who are ready for exam-based study. All of these end with written exams, and we plan exam support with each student well in advance.

*Lengths shown are recommended and depend on each student's individual abilities.

8 ACADEMIC

A Level Maths

Two-year course

Level 3 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Algebra, graphs, calculus, trigonometry, statistics and mechanics (forces and motion).

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

2 years

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One A Level, about 360 guided learning hours over two years
- No coursework units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Three written exam papers at the end of the second year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually a strong GCSE maths grade (many colleges ask for grade 6 or above), plus outcomes from our initial and baseline assessments and a plan for exam support.

NEXT STEP

University, higher apprenticeships, or careers in engineering, finance, technology and science.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

Advanced problem-solving valued by universities and employers.

9 ACADEMIC

A Level Biology

Two-year course

Level 3 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Cells, the human body, genetics, ecosystems and how living things work, with regular practical experiments.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

2 years

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One A Level, about 360 guided learning hours over two years
- Required practical experiments recorded as a separate pass or fail

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Three written exam papers at the end of the second year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually GCSE science and maths at grade 4 or above (many colleges ask for grade 5 or 6 in science), plus outcomes from initial assessment and a plan for exam support.

NEXT STEP

University, or careers in health, science and the environment.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Science knowledge for future study and work, and a better understanding of health.

10 ACADEMIC

A Level Physics

Two-year course

Level 3 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Forces, energy, electricity, waves, particles and space, with regular practical experiments.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

2 years

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One A Level, about 360 guided learning hours over two years
- Required practical experiments recorded as a separate pass or fail

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Three written exam papers at the end of the second year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually GCSE science and maths at grade 4 or above (many colleges ask for grade 5 or 6), plus outcomes from initial assessment and a plan for exam support.

NEXT STEP

University, engineering and technology apprenticeships, or technical careers.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

A strong route into engineering, technology and science jobs.

11 ACADEMIC

A Level Psychology

Two-year course

Level 3 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Memory, attachment, social influence, mental health, the brain and behaviour, research methods and debates in psychology, plus optional topics.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

2 years

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One A Level, about 360 guided learning hours over two years
- No coursework units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Three 2-hour written exam papers at the end of the second year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually GCSE English and maths at grade 4 or above, ideally with GCSE Psychology or AS Psychology, plus outcomes from initial assessment and a plan for exam support.

NEXT STEP

University (psychology, nursing, social work, teaching), or careers in health, care and education.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Understanding people and mental health supports career choices and personal wellbeing.

12 ACADEMIC

AS Level Psychology

One-year course

Level 3 (AS) | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

Memory, attachment, social influence, mental health and how psychologists carry out research.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One AS Level: half an A Level, about 180 guided learning hours over one year

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Two written exam papers at the end of the year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually GCSE English and maths at grade 4 or above, or Level 2 equivalents, plus outcomes from initial assessment and a plan for exam support.

NEXT STEP

A Level Psychology, further Level 3 study, or careers in care, health and education.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Understanding behaviour and mental health supports both career choices and personal wellbeing.

13 ACADEMIC

AS Level English

One-year course

Level 3 (AS) | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

How language is used in different texts and situations, close reading, and writing their own analysis.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One AS Level: half an A Level, about 180 guided learning hours over one year

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Two written exam papers at the end of the year, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually GCSE English at grade 4 or above, or Functional Skills English Level 2 with strong reading and writing, plus outcomes from initial assessment.

NEXT STEP

Further Level 3 study, university or work.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Community inclusion

Confident reading and writing for further study, work and everyday life.

14 ACADEMIC

GCSE Psychology

GCSE grades 1–9

Level 1–2 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

How people think, learn and behave, including memory, perception, child development and mental health.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 to 2 years

Certificate from **AQA**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One GCSE, about 120 guided learning hours

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Two written exam papers, marked by AQA.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Level 1 English (for example Functional Skills English Level 1) and outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing readiness for exam study.

NEXT STEP

AS or A Level Psychology, or Level 3 courses in health and social care.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

A first step towards care, health or education careers, and a better understanding of wellbeing.

15 ACADEMIC

IGCSE Accounting

Same level as a GCSE

Level 1–2 | Exam at the end

WHAT THEY LEARN

How businesses record money coming in and going out, prepare simple accounts and check whether they make a profit.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 to 2 years

Certificate from **Cambridge International**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One IGCSE, the same size as a GCSE (about 130 guided learning hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Two written exam papers, marked by Cambridge.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Functional Skills Maths Level 1 or above, plus outcomes from initial assessment showing readiness for exam study.

NEXT STEP

BTEC National Business (Level 3), accounting apprenticeships, or office and finance work.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living

Useful for finance jobs and for managing money at home.

Vocational courses

6 Practical courses linked to real jobs. Students learn by doing, in the kitchen, salon, garden, workshop or studio. Most are assessed through practical work and a portfolio, with no final exam.

*Lengths shown are recommended and depend on each student's individual abilities.

16 VOCATIONAL

BTEC Health and Social Care

Level 1 Introductory

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Caring for others, communication, healthy living, and the health and care services that support people. Students may visit a care setting.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: one term. Certificate or Diploma: 1 year

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 70 guided learning hours, 2 units (1 core skills unit and 1 subject unit)
- Certificate: 180 guided learning hours, 5 units (2 core skills units and 3 subject units)
- Diploma: 360 guided learning hours, 10 units (4 core skills units and 6 subject units)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Coursework and practical tasks, marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 achieved (for example Functional Skills Entry 3), or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing your young person is ready for Level 1.

NEXT STEP

A Level 2 health and social care course, BTEC Level 3 later on, or supported work in care settings.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health | Community inclusion

Builds care and communication skills for work, and understanding of how to stay healthy.

17 VOCATIONAL

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | Some exams

WHAT THEY LEARN

How people grow and develop through life, health and social care services and the care values staff follow, and how to assess and improve someone's health and wellbeing.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 to 2 years

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- One qualification, 120 guided learning hours (the same size as one GCSE)
- Three components: Human Lifespan Development, Health and Social Care Services and Values, and Health and Wellbeing

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Components 1 and 2 are assignments set by Pearson, marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson. Component 3 is a 2-hour written exam set and marked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Level 1 English (for example Functional Skills English Level 1), or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing readiness for Level 2 study.

NEXT STEP

BTEC National Health and Social Care (Level 3), or work and apprenticeships in care.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health | Community inclusion

Builds care knowledge for work and a good understanding of health and wellbeing.

18 VOCATIONAL

BTEC National Health and Social Care

Level 3

Level 3 | Some exams

WHAT THEY LEARN

Human growth and development, working in health and social care, safeguarding, meeting individual care needs, and health and wellbeing.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Certificate: 1 year. Extended Certificate and larger sizes: 2 years

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Certificate: 180 guided learning hours, 2 units: Human Lifespan Development (exam) and Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (coursework)
- Extended Certificate: 360 guided learning hours (the size of one A Level), 4 units: 3 mandatory, of which 2 are exams, plus 1 optional unit
- Larger sizes: Foundation Diploma (510 hours), Diploma (720 hours) and Extended Diploma (1,080 hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Exam units are written papers set and marked by Pearson. The other units are coursework marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually a Level 2 qualification: GCSE English and maths at grade 4, or Functional Skills Level 2, ideally with a Level 2 in a related subject. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm readiness for Level 3 study.

NEXT STEP

University (for example nursing or social work), apprenticeships, or work in health and care.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Prepares for skilled work in care and gives a strong understanding of health.

19 VOCATIONAL

BTEC Applied Science

Level 1 Introductory

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Hands-on science through experiments and investigations linked to everyday life and science jobs.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: one term. Certificate or Diploma: 1 year

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 70 guided learning hours, 2 units (1 core skills unit and 1 subject unit)
- Certificate: 180 guided learning hours, 5 units (2 core skills units and 3 subject units)
- Diploma: 360 guided learning hours, 10 units (4 core skills units and 6 subject units)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Coursework and practical work, marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 achieved (for example Functional Skills Entry 3), or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing your young person is ready for Level 1.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 science or technical courses.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Practical science skills for work, and knowledge that supports healthy choices.

20 VOCATIONAL

BTEC First Business

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | Some exams

WHAT THEY LEARN

How businesses work, customer service, promoting a product, business money and planning a small enterprise.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: 1 year. Larger sizes: up to 2 years

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 120 guided learning hours (the size of one GCSE), 4 units, including Enterprise in the Business World (coursework) and Finance for Business (an on-screen test)
- Larger sizes: Certificate (240 hours), Extended Certificate (360 hours) and Diploma (480 hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Mostly coursework marked by the teacher, plus the Finance for Business on-screen test set and marked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 or Level 1 English and maths. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

BTEC National Business (Level 3), apprenticeships, or work in retail and offices.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living

Workplace knowledge plus money skills useful at home.

21 VOCATIONAL

BTEC National Business

Level 3 (BTEC Nationals)

Level 3 | Some exams

WHAT THEY LEARN

How organisations work, how they plan marketing campaigns to reach customers, and how people and businesses manage money.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Certificate: 1 year. Extended Certificate and larger sizes: 2 years

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Certificate: 180 guided learning hours, 2 units: Exploring Business (coursework) and Developing a Marketing Campaign (a set task)
- Extended Certificate: 360 guided learning hours (the size of one A Level), 4 units: Exploring Business, Developing a Marketing Campaign, Personal and Business Finance (a written exam) and 1 optional unit
- Larger sizes: Foundation Diploma (510 hours), Diploma (720 hours) and Extended Diploma (1,080 hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Exploring Business is coursework marked by the teacher. Developing a Marketing Campaign is a task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervision. Personal and Business Finance is a written exam.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually a Level 2 qualification: GCSE English and maths at grade 4, or Functional Skills Level 2. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm readiness for Level 3 study.

NEXT STEP

University, higher apprenticeships, or business, marketing and finance jobs.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living

Prepares for skilled office and business work, and for managing personal finances.

22 VOCATIONAL

BTEC WorkSkills

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Getting ready for work: teamwork, communication, CVs and interviews, health and safety at work, and learning from work experience.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

One term to 1 year, depending on size

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: up to 12 credits · Certificate: 13 to 36 credits · Extended Certificate: 18 to 36 credits · Diploma: 37 credits or more
- Units are chosen to suit your young person

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Coursework and evidence from work experience, marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Entry Level 3 skills. Level 2: usually Level 1 achieved. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

Work experience, supported internships, apprenticeships or employment.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

Directly prepares your young person for applying for, starting and keeping a job.

23 VOCATIONAL

BTEC Home Cooking Skills

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Planning, preparing and cooking simple, healthy meals on a budget, plus food safety and kitchen hygiene.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

About one term for each level

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Level 1 Award: one unit, 40 guided learning hours (4 credits)
- Level 2 Award: one unit, 60 guided learning hours (6 credits)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Practical cooking, watched by the teacher, and a short record of your young person's work.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: no previous qualification needed. Level 2: usually the Level 1 Award. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level.

NEXT STEP

The Level 2 Award, hospitality and catering courses, or more independence in the kitchen at home.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Independent living | Good health

Cooking healthy meals is a key step towards living more independently.

24 VOCATIONAL

BTEC First Hospitality

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | Some exams

WHAT THEY LEARN

How hotels, restaurants and cafés work, the jobs and skills in hospitality, food safety and kitchen hygiene, and one specialist area such as cooking, food and drink service or front office.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: 1 year. Larger sizes: up to 2 years

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 120 guided learning hours (the size of one GCSE), 4 units: Introducing the Hospitality Industry (exam), Working in the Hospitality Industry, Food Safety and Health and Safety, and 1 optional unit
- Larger sizes: Certificate (240 hours), Extended Certificate (360 hours) and Diploma (480 hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Three units are coursework and practical work marked by the teacher. Introducing the Hospitality Industry is a 1 hour 15 minute written exam set and marked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 or Level 1 English and maths, or the BTEC Home Cooking Skills Award. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 or 3 hospitality and catering courses, apprenticeships, or work in kitchens, cafés, hotels and events.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living | Good health

Real workplace skills for hospitality jobs, plus safe cooking and hygiene for living more independently.

25 VOCATIONAL

BTEC Hair and Beauty

Level 1 Introductory

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Basic hair and beauty skills such as shampooing, styling, nail care and skin care, plus working safely and looking after clients.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: one term. Certificate or Diploma: 1 year

Certificate from **Pearson**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 70 guided learning hours, 2 units (1 core skills unit and 1 subject unit)
- Certificate: 180 guided learning hours, 5 units (2 core skills units and 3 subject units)
- Diploma: 360 guided learning hours, 10 units (4 core skills units and 6 subject units)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Practical tasks in the salon and coursework, marked by the teacher and checked by Pearson.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 achieved (for example Functional Skills Entry 3), or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing your young person is ready for Level 1.

NEXT STEP

VTCT Level 2 Hair and Beauty Skills, then Level 2 diplomas or an apprenticeship.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health

Salon skills for work, plus personal care routines for everyday life.

26 VOCATIONAL

VTCT Hair and Beauty Skills

Level 2 Certificate

Level 2 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Further skills such as blow-drying, plaiting and twisting, nail art, manicures and make-up, and working as part of a salon team.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **VTCT**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Certificate: a mandatory unit on creating an image based on a theme, plus optional practical units such as nail art, manicure, blow-drying, or plaiting and twisting

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Practical assessments in the salon, plus some written tasks or short tests. No final exam.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually a Level 1 hair and beauty qualification, or outcomes from initial assessment and a practical taster showing Level 2 skills.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 diplomas in hairdressing or beauty therapy, or an apprenticeship.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

Prepares for a hair or beauty apprenticeship or salon work.

27 VOCATIONAL

Practical Horticulture Skills

Level 1

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Practical gardening: preparing soil, sowing seeds, planting, caring for plants and using garden tools safely.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: one term. Certificate or Diploma: 1 year

Certificate from **City & Guilds**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 6 credits (about 45 guided learning hours), usually 3 practical units
- Certificate: 18 credits (about 140 hours): 10 credits from the mandatory units and 8 from optional units
- Diploma: 37 credits (about 285 hours)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

The tutor watches your young person carry out practical tasks and asks questions to check understanding.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No formal qualification needed. Outcomes from initial and baseline assessments and a practical taster help set the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

City & Guilds Level 2 Practical Horticulture Skills, or work in gardens, parks and garden centres.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health | Community inclusion

Outdoor, active work that builds job skills and wellbeing, often linked to community projects.

28 VOCATIONAL

Motor Vehicle Systems Maintenance

Entry Level 3

Entry 3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

How cars work, basic vehicle checks (tyres, fluids, lights), simple maintenance and staying safe in a workshop.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award: one term. Certificate or Diploma: 1 year

Certificate from **City & Guilds**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: at least 12 credits
- Certificate and Diploma are larger sizes (the Diploma needs at least 45 credits)
- At least half of the credits come from Entry Level 3 units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Practical tasks in the workshop, watched and recorded by the tutor.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No formal qualification needed. Outcomes from initial and baseline assessments and a practical taster help set the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

City & Guilds Level 1 Vehicle Systems Maintenance, then Level 2 motor vehicle courses or an apprenticeship.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

Practical workshop skills that lead towards motor vehicle apprenticeships.

29 VOCATIONAL

Art and Design

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Exploring art and design ideas, drawing, painting and making, experimenting with materials, and developing and presenting their own project.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year for each level

Certificate from **NCFE**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Level 1 Certificate: 130 guided learning hours (13 credits), 2 mandatory and 2 optional units
- Level 2 Certificate: 150 guided learning hours (24 credits)

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

A portfolio of work, marked by the tutor and checked by NCFE.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Entry Level 3 skills. Level 2: usually the Level 1 Certificate. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level.

NEXT STEP

The Level 2 Certificate, then Level 3 art, design or creative media courses.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Community inclusion | Good health

Creative skills for work and leisure, and a calm way to express ideas.

30 VOCATIONAL

Photography

Levels 1 and 2

Level 1–2 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Using a camera, composing and lighting a photo, editing images and presenting a final set of photographs.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Level 1: one term. Level 2: 1 year

Certificate from **NCFE**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Level 1 Award: 60 guided learning hours (6 credits), 2 mandatory units: Use a camera to capture creative images, and Digital image manipulation
- Level 2 Certificate: 120 guided learning hours (16 credits): 3 core units plus optional units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

A portfolio of photographs and notes, marked by the tutor and checked by NCFE.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Entry Level 3 skills. Level 2: usually the Level 1 Award. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level.

NEXT STEP

The Level 2 Certificate, then Level 3 photography or creative media courses.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Community inclusion

Creative and digital skills, often practised out in the local community.

31 VOCATIONAL

Carpentry

Unit Award Scheme

Short units | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Using hand tools safely, measuring, marking and cutting wood, and making simple projects.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

A few weeks for each project unit

Certificate from **AQA Unit Award Scheme**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Short project units, each certificated on its own
- Taken as separate units, or as a bridge towards a construction or carpentry qualification

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

The tutor records each finished project. AQA issues a certificate for every completed unit.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Open to every student. Outcomes from initial assessment and a practical taster show which units to start with.

NEXT STEP

More advanced carpentry units, or a construction course at Entry 3 or Level 1.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living

Practical skills for trades work and for simple repairs at home.

32 VOCATIONAL

Game Design

Creative Digital Media, Levels 1 to 3

Level 1–3 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Designing and building their own computer games: ideas, characters, levels, testing and presenting a finished game.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year for each level

Certificate from **RSL**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Available at Levels 1, 2 and 3 in several sizes, from Award up to Diploma
- Each size is a core unit plus optional units. For example, the Level 2 Certificate is 1 core unit and 2 optional units
- Larger sizes add more optional units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Practical projects marked by the tutor. At the higher levels, one project is set by RSL and completed in class. No written exam.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Level 1: usually Entry Level 3 skills. Level 2: usually Level 1 achieved. Level 3: usually Level 2 achieved. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm the right level and size.

NEXT STEP

The next level, digital and creative courses, or apprenticeships.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment

Digital design, planning and problem-solving skills used in creative and technical jobs.

33 VOCATIONAL

Sports Leadership

Level 1

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Planning and leading simple sports and fitness activities for others, building confidence, communication and teamwork.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

1 year

Certificate from **Leadership Skills Foundation**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Two units, about 20 guided learning hours
- Plus at least one hour leading an activity

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

The tutor watches your young person lead sessions and records their progress.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous qualification needed. Outcomes from initial assessment confirm readiness for Level 1.

NEXT STEP

Level 2 Sports Leadership, sports coaching or volunteering.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Good health | Community inclusion

Leading others, staying active and volunteering in the community.

Future Works

7

Our own work enterprise, run within the college. Students gain real work experience with real customers and real money, supported by staff all the way. These are real workplaces, not classroom simulations.

*Lengths shown are recommended and depend on each student's individual abilities.

Café Sensory Grounds

An inclusive café. Students take orders, make hot and cold drinks, follow hygiene and safety rules and serve customers.

The Heart of Syon

A community thrift shop. Students sort and price donated items, create displays, help customers and learn how a shop runs.

Skills students build

Teamwork · Time management · Communication · Independent living skills · Self-advocacy · Problem solving · Adapting to a workplace

Learning to adapt in a real working environment, with staff support, also helps students practise recognising and managing their emotions, so they stay calm and regulated at work.

English and maths, in and out of the classroom

Students use maths to handle money, give change, price items and count stock, and English to read orders, talk to customers and follow instructions. Teachers link this to English and maths lessons, so classroom learning is used at work and real work feeds back into lessons.

34 FUTURE WORKS

Future Works

Real work experience in our café and thrift shop

All levels | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Real work in our own enterprises. In Café Sensory Grounds students take orders, make hot and cold drinks and serve customers. In The Heart of Syon thrift shop they sort and price donated items, create displays and help customers.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Flexible. Part of the week, alongside other courses, at a pace that suits each student

Certificate from **Syon Manor College**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Not an exam qualification: a real work experience programme run within the college
- Short training in health and safety, manual handling, allergen awareness and barista skills
- Certificates recognise the skills and achievements gained

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

No exam. Staff support and observe students at work and record the skills they show, such as timekeeping, money handling, customer service and hygiene.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Open to students preparing for life after college. Outcomes from initial assessment and EHCP goals decide each student's role and level of support.

NEXT STEP

Supported internships, volunteering, paid work, or vocational courses such as hospitality.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living | Community inclusion | Good health

Real customers, real money and real responsibilities build work skills, independence, confidence in the community and calm, regulated working habits.

ASDAN and Life skills

8

These programmes celebrate progress in independence, communication and everyday living. None of them has an exam. Progress is shown through photos, videos, worksheets and staff observations.

*Lengths shown are recommended and depend on each student's individual abilities.

What is ASDAN?

ASDAN is an education charity and awarding body. Its programmes are built for learners who show what they can do through real activities rather than tests. At Syon Manor we use two ASDAN programmes:

- **Personal Progress**, a qualification at Entry Level 1
- **LifeSkills Challenges**, short practical challenges for all abilities

Staff collect evidence as your young person learns. ASDAN then checks (moderates) our portfolios, so certificates are nationally recognised.

Personal Progress

A recognised qualification (Award, Certificate or Diploma) for learners at the earliest levels, including learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

LifeSkills Challenges

Flexible, bite-sized challenges chosen around your young person's goals, with every completed challenge recorded and celebrated.

35 LIFE SKILLS

ASDAN Personal Progress

Entry Level 1

Entry 1 · No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Personal goals for learners working at the earliest levels, including learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties: communication, personal care, making choices, independent living and taking part in the community.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Award or Certificate: 1 year. Larger sizes: up to 2 years

Certificate from **ASDAN**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 8 credits · Certificate: 14 credits · Extended Certificate: 25 credits · Diploma: 37 credits
- All units are optional, so they are chosen around your young person
- A student who completes fewer than 8 credits still receives a certificate for each unit

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

A portfolio of photos, videos and staff observations that shows progress over time. ASDAN checks (moderates) the portfolio.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None. Designed for learners working below and at Entry 1. Outcomes from initial assessment show which units suit your young person.

NEXT STEP

A larger Personal Progress size, then ASDAN qualifications at Entry 2 and 3, or Entry Level Functional Skills.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment · Independent living · Community inclusion · Good health

Every unit sits under one of the four Preparing for Adulthood areas.

36 LIFE SKILLS

ASDAN LifeSkills Challenges

Pre-Entry to Level 3

All abilities | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Short, practical challenges in everyday areas such as cooking, shopping, travel, personal care, health, keeping safe and looking after a home.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

Throughout the year. Each challenge takes a few weeks

Certificate from **ASDAN**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- An ASDAN programme with a certificate (not a regulated qualification)
- Each challenge takes about 10, 20 or 30 hours
- No set number: students complete as many challenges as suit them during the year

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

Each challenge is recorded with evidence such as photos, videos or worksheets. ASDAN issues a certificate listing the challenges completed.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None. Challenges are available from pre-Entry to Level 3. Outcomes from initial assessment show which level and challenges to start with.

NEXT STEP

ASDAN Personal Progress, Entry Level qualifications, or more demanding challenges.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Employment | Independent living | Community inclusion | Good health

Challenges are chosen around your young person's goals across all four areas.

37 LIFE SKILLS

Managing Your Money

Level 1 Award

Level 1 | No exam

WHAT THEY LEARN

Budgeting, saving and borrowing, bank accounts, comparing prices and avoiding debt.

RECOMMENDED LENGTH*

One term

Certificate from **NCFE**

Course page ↗

SIZE AND UNITS

- Award: 48 guided learning hours (6 credits), 2 mandatory units

HOW IT IS ASSESSED

A portfolio of work, marked by the teacher and checked by NCFE.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Usually Entry Level 3 maths, or outcomes from initial and baseline assessments showing readiness for Level 1.

NEXT STEP

Functional Skills Maths Level 1 or 2, or a Level 2 money management course.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Independent living

Managing money safely is central to living independently.

9

PSHE: Personal, Social and Health Education

A weekly, planned lesson for every student about health, wellbeing, relationships and keeping safe. It is not an exam course. It prepares young people for adult life and gives regular time to review their Personal Learning Goals.

Taught at the right level for your young person

Recognising and Responding

SAFETY AND SUPPORTED INDEPENDENCE

Knowing trusted people, safe and unsafe situations, and how to ask for help. Taught with visuals, objects, modelling and real routines.

Applying and Choosing

SKILLS AND MAKING CHOICES

Using skills in familiar situations: planning a journey, spotting online scams, choosing who to ask for help, understanding consent and boundaries, and managing money safely.

Analysing and Managing

INDEPENDENT ADULTHOOD

Thinking through more complex adult situations, such as travel back-up plans, online risks, contracts, debt, housing, work rights and adult relationships.

Flexible levels: a student may work at one level for relationships and safety and a different level for money or citizenship. We always choose the safest level that still gives the right challenge.

Keeping safe comes back every term

These topics are revisited every term, in more depth each year, alongside the main theme.

- Online safety
- Trusted people and asking for help
- Phones and screen time
- Travel and community safety
- Relationships and consent
- Money safety and exploitation

How lessons work

- Age-respectful and autism-informed, with clear visuals and literal language.
- Learning through modelling, role-play and real-life practice.
- Students can communicate in whatever way works for them: speech, symbols, writing, photos or AAC.
- Students are told in advance when a topic may feel sensitive.

Personal Learning Goals

At the start and end of every half-term, students review their PLGs with their mentor. Progress is recorded in their reflection book and on Evidence for Learning, so you can see what they have achieved.

Our three-year PSHE plan (2026–2029)

Each half-term has one main theme. New students join whichever year is running, and teachers recap earlier learning first.

Year	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year A Foundations and recognition	Me, my body, privacy and trusted people	Phones, screens and online safety	Friendship, boundaries, consent and respect	Travel foundations and community safety	Healthy body, emotions and self-care	Community, student voice, pride in my goals and moving on
Year B Applying skills and making choices	Digital identity, cyberbullying, scams and balance	Money, shopping, financial safety and exploitation basics	Relationships, pressure, equality and misogyny	Travel planning, problem-solving and public safety	Work, rights, responsibilities and community participation	Health services, supported independence and moving on
Year C Adulthood, complex risk and leadership	Grooming, exploitation, modern slavery and county lines	Sextortion, image sharing, deepfakes, harmful content and misinformation	Adult relationships, consent, sexual health and coercive control	Independent travel, emergencies and resilience	Adult money, work, housing, contracts and scams	Leadership, advocacy, civic life, mentoring and moving on

10

Citizenship

Citizenship helps students understand how society works and how to take part in it: democracy, the law, rights and responsibilities, and their local community. It builds confidence to speak up, make choices and use public services.

Four steps in every topic

1. Know

Learn the facts, words, rights, responsibilities and where to get help.

2. Communicate

Share a view, ask a question, listen and explain, in their own way.

3. Act

Do something real: vote in a mock election, use a service, help with a project.

4. Use it everywhere

Use the learning at lunch, on the bus, on work experience and at home.

Topics we explore

- UK democracy, Parliament and elections
- Law, justice and the courts
- Local council and public services
- Rights, responsibilities and freedoms
- Media, news and misinformation
- Money, tax and public spending
- Global citizenship
- Campaigns, volunteering and social action

Learning in the real world

- Mock elections and asking a councillor or candidate a question.
- Guest speakers such as the police, magistrates, the council and Citizens Advice.
- Visits to the library, council services and community organisations.
- Having a say in college decisions through student voice.

How it differs from PSHE

PSHE is about personal health, relationships and keeping safe. Citizenship looks at the wider picture: society, the law and democracy. For example, PSHE teaches how to stay safe online, while Citizenship explores fake news and how online platforms shape opinion.

Citizenship is taught at the same three levels as PSHE. Where suitable, the work can be recognised through AQA Unit Award Scheme units or an ASDAN programme.

11

The Enrichment carousel

Enrichment is practical learning beyond the qualification timetable. It builds confidence, independence, communication, wellbeing and skills for adult life. It runs at all three campuses: Isleworth, Vine House and Aston House.

Travel and Independence

Moving safely through everyday life and managing personal routines.

- My local area
- Using buses and trains
- Money management
- Shopping independently

Healthy Living and Community

Looking after body and mind, and using the local community.

- Healthy choices and snacks
- Movement and fitness
- Emotional wellbeing toolkit
- Using the library, leisure centre, cafés and parks
- Sustainable shopping, food waste and growing plants

Digital Skills for Life

Using technology safely and usefully, for life and work.

- My device and accessibility settings
- Safe online life
- Emails, messages and online forms
- Calendars, documents and spreadsheets
- Coding, simple games and websites

How the carousel turns

Students are in one of three groups. Each group spends half a term in one area, then moves to the next. From Spring 2 the cycle repeats, so students review what they learned, become more independent and take on more challenge.

Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Group A	Travel and Independence	Healthy Living and Community	Digital Skills for Life	Travel and Independence review and extend	Healthy Living and Community review and extend	Digital Skills for Life review and extend
Group B	Healthy Living and Community	Digital Skills for Life	Travel and Independence	Healthy Living and Community review and extend	Digital Skills for Life review and extend	Travel and Independence review and extend
Group C	Digital Skills for Life	Travel and Independence	Healthy Living and Community	Digital Skills for Life review and extend	Travel and Independence review and extend	Healthy Living and Community review and extend

Monday, Session 4

2:00–2:45pm. Prepare and practise: new words, step-by-step modelling and rehearsal.

Friday, Sessions 3 and 4

1:00–2:45pm. Put it into action: visits, real tasks, creating something and reflecting on it.

Safe and well supported: there is at least one member of staff for every four students, and more where a student needs it. Activities link with the college café, shop, horticulture and enterprise projects, and progress is recorded on Evidence for Learning against your young person's goals.

12

A typical college day

The day looks different at each campus, so that it suits the students who learn there. Every campus has four learning sessions, and courses are timetabled into them according to each student's plan.

Isleworth

Academic and Career Ready

9:00am – 2:45pm

9:00 – 9:30am	**Mentor group time and AM registration** Regulation and choosing time
9:30 – 10:30am	**Session 1**
10:30 – 10:45am	**Break**
10:45 – 11:45am	**Session 2**
11:45am – 12:15pm	**Lunch preparation** Life skills in action
12:15 – 1:00pm	**Lunch**
After lunch	**Mentor group and PM registration** Settling back in for the afternoon
1:00 – 2:00pm	**Session 3** Friday: Enrichment
2:00 – 2:45pm	**Session 4** Monday and Friday: Enrichment

Vine House

Skills and Vocational Development

9:00am – 3:00pm

9:00 – 9:30am	**Arrival, breakfast and regulation**
9:30 – 10:00am	**Attention Autism and social skills**
10:00 – 11:00am	**Session 1**
11:00 – 11:15am	**Break and snack time**
11:15am – 12:00pm	**Session 2**
12:00 – 12:50pm	**Lunch**
12:50 – 1:00pm	**Registration** Getting ready to learn again
1:00 – 1:45pm	**Session 3**
1:45 – 2:00pm	**Movement break**
2:00 – 2:40pm	**Session 4**
2:40 – 3:00pm	**Tidy up and review learning** Cleaning and tidying up, practising what we have learnt and retrieval practice. Home time at 3:00pm

Aston House

Skills and Vocational Development

9:00am – 3:00pm

9:00 – 9:30am	**Arrival, breakfast and regulation**
9:30 – 10:00am	**Attention Autism and social skills**
10:00 – 11:00am	**Session 1**
11:00 – 11:15am	**Break**
11:15am – 12:00pm	**Session 2**
12:00 – 12:30pm	**Lunch**
12:30 – 1:00pm	**Lunch clubs** Clubs and social time after lunch
1:00 – 2:00pm	**Session 3**
2:00 – 2:40pm	**Session 4**
2:40 – 3:00pm	**Tidy up and review learning** Cleaning and tidying up, practising what we have learnt and retrieval practice. Home time at 3:00pm

Every day is planned around the student, with calm, regulated starts and a calm end to the day. At Aston House, students learn in two groups: Creators and Explorers.

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Questions?

We are always happy to talk about your young person's courses and plans.

Start with your young person's tutor

They know your young person's timetable, courses, levels and any exams, and can explain what comes next.

About the curriculum as a whole

Please contact Mateusz Szlezak, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Education and Curriculum, through the college office.