



Functional Learning Approach



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Welcome to the Functional Learning Approach at Five Acre Wood School

The Functional Learning Approach is Five Acre Wood's Sixth Form provision, for students aged 16-19. Our learning approach caters for students of all needs, and we are proud of the social integration and individualised approach our students receive. A number of different, flexible pathways exist for the students within the learning approach, enabling them to work on skills, gain knowledge and achieve accreditations relevant to their own next steps.

The whole school works to nurture and maximise the potential of each and every individual and celebrate their achievements. The Functional Learning Approach represents the culmination of those efforts as students take their final steps towards future colleges, specialist provisions, employment and living as independently as possible. We aim to prepare students for life using an age-appropriate approach tailored to their personal interests, skills and needs.

Within our prospectus you will see the array of lessons, skills and qualifications our students work towards. We extend a warm welcome to current parents/carers and students of Five Acre Wood, as well as individuals from schools and colleges across Kent, to peruse this information about our Sixth Form

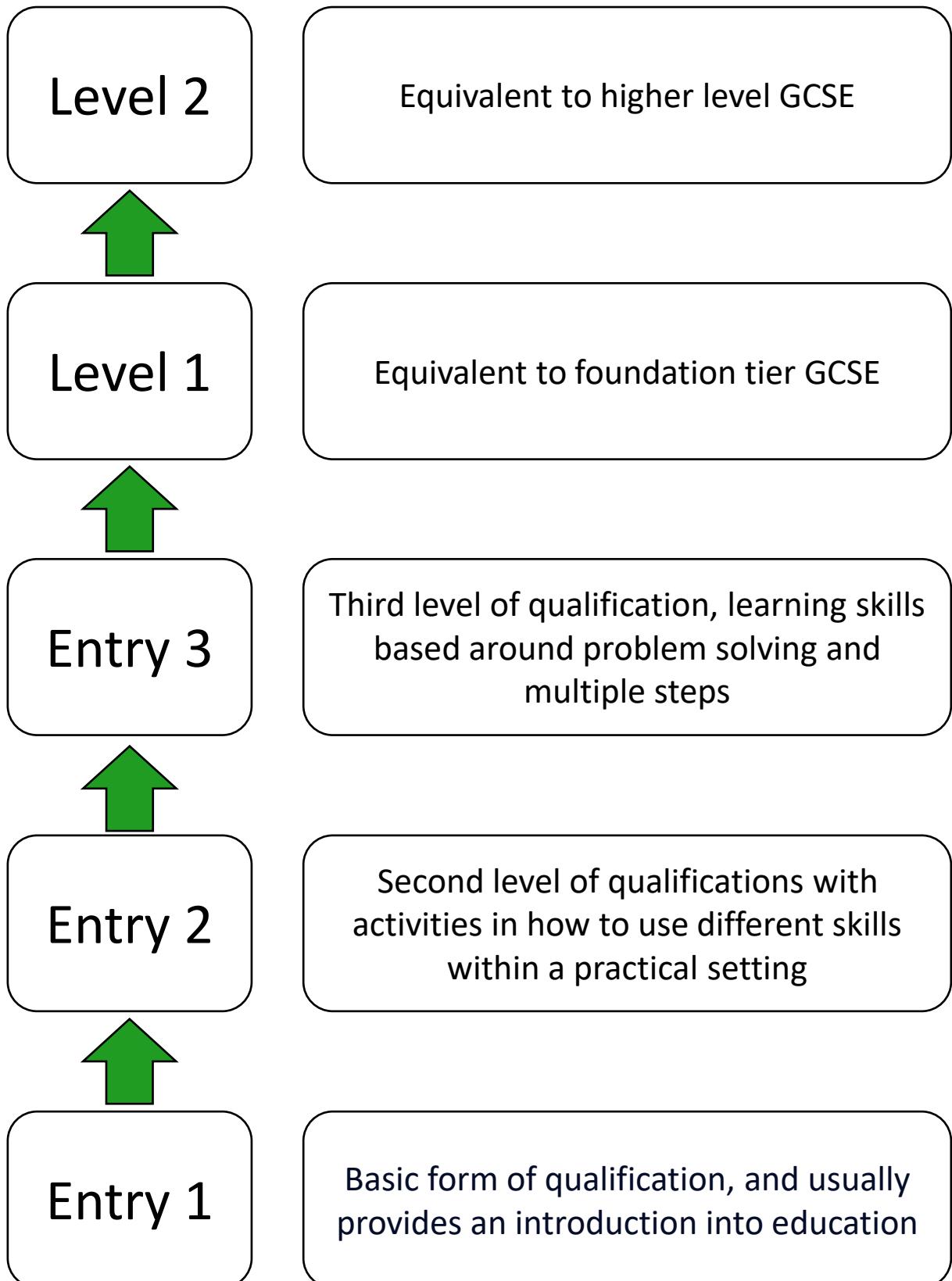
Many thanks,

Jaime Cronk & Laura Thorogood

Assistant Head Teacher
& Strategic Lead
for Functional

Functional Learning
Approach Lead

Levels Explained



Levels Explained

Functional Skills Level 2 /
GCSE Grades 4-9



Functional Skills Level 1 /
GCSE Grades 1-3



Functional Skills Entry Level 1-3



We have developed our use of the Skills Builder Partnership to help our students develop essential life and work skills. The Skills Builder Universal Framework focuses on eight key areas: **listening, speaking, problem-solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership, and teamwork**. These are integrated into everyday activities to promote growth in independence, confidence, and employability.

- **Cooking Skills:** Students develop leadership and teamwork by planning and preparing meals together. They practice listening by following instructions and problem-solving by adjusting recipes.
- **Independent Living Skills:** Skills such as budgeting, shopping, and home management are taught to enhance creativity and responsibility, while aiming high helps them strive for greater independence.
- **Learning to Travel:** Through public transport navigation, students build confidence and resilience, improve their listening skills, and develop leadership by planning routes and staying safe.
- **Work Experience:** In placements, students practice teamwork and leadership, overcome challenges with a positive attitude, and set goals to aim high for future careers.

This tailored approach ensures that our students develop practical skills, preparing them for independent living and the workplace.

City and Guilds

Functional Skills - English

Entry 1 – Entry 2 – Entry 3

City & Guilds Functional Skills English at Entry Levels 1, 2, and 3 helps learners develop essential literacy skills. These levels build progressively, focusing on practical skills for everyday life and work.

Entry Level 1 (E1):

- Reading:** Learners read very basic texts, signs or short instructions.
- Writing:** Focus on writing simple sentences with basic punctuation.
- Speaking and Listening:** Engage in short, familiar conversations, responding to simple questions.

Entry Level 2 (E2):

- Reading:** Learners read slightly longer texts and identify key information, notes and simple emails
- Writing:** Write short passages with correct sentence structure, using question marks and commas.
- Speaking and Listening:** Participate in simple discussions, expressing basic opinions and answering questions.

Entry Level 3 (E3):

- Reading:** Focuses on understanding longer texts, identifying main points and details.
- Writing:** Learners write extended pieces, short reports or emails, using a range of punctuation and spelling a wider vocabulary correctly.
- Speaking and Listening:** Engage in more detailed conversations and group discussions, listening for specific information and contributing ideas.

Assessment: Each level includes task-based assessments reflecting real-life situations. Speaking and listening assessments involve role-play or group discussions, emphasising communication in everyday contexts. These qualifications provide a solid foundation for learners to progress to higher levels and improve their employability and independence.

City and Guilds

Functional Skills - English

Level 1 – Level 2

Both Level 1 and Level 2 Functional Skills English focus on practical English skills for work, study, and daily life, assessed in Reading, Writing, and Speaking & Listening.

Level 1:

- Reading:** Understand straightforward texts like emails and leaflets. Identify key points and follow instructions.
- Writing:** Create clear and structured texts (e.g., letters, emails) with correct punctuation and grammar, suited to the audience and context.
- Speaking & Listening:** Engage in informal conversations, express ideas clearly, and understand others.

Level 2:

- Reading:** Analyse more complex texts such as articles and reports. Infer meanings and compare information.
- Writing:** Produce formal documents (e.g., reports, articles) with effective structure and a formal tone.
- Speaking & Listening:** Take part in formal discussions or presentations, articulating ideas confidently and responding to different viewpoints.

Assessment:

- Reading & Writing:** Task-based assessments reflecting real-life scenarios, under timed conditions.
- Speaking & Listening:** Assessed through role-play or group discussions, focusing on effective communication.

Progression: Level 1 provides a foundation, while Level 2, equivalent to GCSE grade 4 (C), is more advanced and supports further education and employability.

City and Guilds

Functional Skills - Maths

Entry 1 – Entry 2 – Entry 3

Entry Level 1:

- Numbers:** Recognise and use numbers up to 20. Perform basic addition and subtraction.
- Calculation:** Solve simple problems with numbers up to 10.
- Measurement:** Use basic units like centimetres, grams, and millilitres.
- Data Handling:** Interpret simple charts and pictograms.

Entry Level 2:

- Numbers:** Work with numbers up to 100. Use simple fractions and understand place value.
- Calculation:** Perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with numbers up to 100.
- Measurement:** Practical use of units like metres, kilograms, and litres.
- Data Handling:** Interpret information from tables and simple charts.

Entry Level 3:

- Numbers:** Work with numbers up to 1000. Use fractions, percentages, and place value.
- Calculation:** Solve multi-step problems with larger numbers.
- Measurement:** Accurate measurement of length, weight, volume, and time.
- Data Handling:** Read and interpret complex charts, graphs, and tables. Understand mean, median, and mode.

Maths assessments involve a written exam with a variety of questions designed to reflect real-life scenarios. The tests include:

- Practical Problems**
- Multiple-Choice and Short-Answer Questions**
- Real-Life Contexts**

City and Guilds

Functional Skills - Maths

Level 1 – Level 2

City & Guilds Functional Skills Maths at Level 1 and Level 2 focus on practical numeracy skills.

Level 1:

- Numbers:** Work with numbers up to 1000, understand place value, and use basic fractions and percentages.
- Calculation:** Perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Solve simple multi-step problems.
- Measurement:** Use and convert between units (e.g., length, weight, volume, time).
- Data Handling:** Interpret and present data using tables, charts, and graphs. Basic statistical measures like mean, median, and mode.

Level 2:

- Numbers:** Handle larger numbers, complex fractions, percentages, ratios, and proportions.
- Calculation:** Perform advanced calculations and solve complex multi-step problems.
- Measurement:** Accurately measure and convert units in various contexts.
- Data Handling:** Analyse and interpret complex data from charts, graphs, and tables. Apply statistical measures and understand data distribution.

Assessment Overview: Both levels are assessed through written exams featuring multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response questions. The tests simulate real-life scenarios, evaluating the application of mathematical skills in practical contexts.

ASDAN Personal Progress

Entry 1

ASDAN Personal Progress at Entry Level 1 is designed to support learners with a range of needs. The programme helps students develop practical skills and personal growth through a flexible, individualised approach.

1. **Core Areas:** The programme covers several key areas including communication, numeracy, ICT, and personal development. It focuses on building foundational skills that are essential for everyday life.
2. **Modules and Units:** Entry Level 1 is divided into modules that can be tailored to individual needs. For example, learners might work on tasks related to personal hygiene, managing money, or following simple instructions.
3. **Assessment:** Assessment is largely based on the learner's ability to complete tasks and show progress. It's more about demonstrating practical skills and achieving personal goals rather than formal testing.
4. **Flexibility:** The programme is highly adaptable, allowing educators to customise the learning experience to suit each student's needs and interests. This makes it particularly suitable for learners who might benefit from a more hands-on, personalised approach.
5. **Progression:** While Entry Level 1 is a starting point, it can lead to further qualifications and skills development in ASDAN's other programmes, such as the Transition Challenge or ASDAN Award in Personal and Social Development.

ASDAN Personal Progress at Entry Level 1 aims to build confidence and competence in essential life skills, helping learners prepare for greater independence and future opportunities.

Due to the ever changing needs of our students, this area of the curriculum is under review with updates coming for September 2025

ASDAN Personal Progress



Work Skills Builder



The Work Skills Builder lessons offers students a comprehensive introduction to the professional world, focusing on essential skills for future success. In this lesson, students will:

- Understand Workplace Dynamics:** Gain insights into how different roles and teams operate within a workplace, including the importance of workplace culture and the impact of individual contributions.
- Develop Work Ethic:** Learn about the values and behaviours that contribute to a strong work ethic, such as reliability, responsibility, and dedication. Emphasis is placed on the importance of showing up on time, meeting deadlines, and taking pride in one's work.
- Master Workplace Etiquette:** Discover the norms and expectations of professional behaviour, including appropriate dress codes, respectful communication, and the significance of a positive attitude.
- Enhance Task Management:** Practice organising, prioritising, and executing tasks efficiently. Students will learn strategies for managing their workload and ensuring tasks are completed accurately and on time.
- Improve Professional Communication:** Build skills for clear, respectful, and effective communication with colleagues, supervisors, and clients. This includes verbal and written communication, as well as listening and responding appropriately.

By integrating these elements, the Work Skills Builder lesson not only prepares students for their future careers but also aligns with the Skills Builder framework, ensuring they develop a well-rounded set of professional skills. This lesson equips students with the tools they need to excel in any workplace environment and achieve their career goals.

To support students in their work skills lessons, Year 12 students undertake internal work experience placements within FAW, while Year 13 and 14 students participate in external placements. These opportunities provide hands-on, practical experience in the world of work, with support from school job coaches, to ensure students gain valuable skills and confidence in real work environments.

Work Skills Builder – Work Experience

We have developed some great links to businesses in the local area that support us by offering work experience placements. We are grateful to everyone involved to help us learn more about work.

Five Acre Wood –
Loose and Snodland Sites

Working as TA support in classes in the practical and formal approach. Leading small group activities, creating resources and supporting the class teams.

FAW Outdoor Learning
Environment

Animal care and in the Apple Tree Yard, feeding and grooming the animals as well as maintaining their pen areas.

FAWrient Express Café

Working in the FAWrient express café, serving customers, using industry standard equipment and learning how to prepare food.

FAW Outdoor Learning
Environment

Working in the grounds of the OLE yard, undertaking construction, maintenance and gardening tasks to develop the site.

Greenfields Community
Primary School – Nursery

Work across the nursery or classrooms, leading small group activities for nursery and primary aged children, helping with outdoor play, class activities and supporting early reading skills.

Work Skills Builder – Work Experience

Buttercups Goat Sanctuary

Working with the goats to support with feeding and grooming the animals as well as tending their pen areas and maintenance tasks around the yard.

Coolings Garden Centre - Bearsted

Working around the nursery to water plants, take deliveries and moving stock around. Serving customers and using the till .

French's Equestrian

Working as a yard hand to groom horses, muck out stables and prepare feed. Supporting the instructors in riding lessons.

Westborough Primary School

Working in classrooms, leading small group activities for nursery and primary aged children, helping with outdoor play, class activities and supporting early reading skills..

Maidstone Community Support Centre

Working in Kent Archaeological society, cataloguing artifacts or working with their site maintenance team

Oxfam, Peggy Wood Foundation and Demelza Charity Shops

Retail assistance helping with stock checks, supporting customers and using the till . Receiving donations and organising displays.

Life Skills Builder



The Life Skills Builder lessons are designed to equip students with essential skills for navigating and engaging with their local community effectively. These lessons focus on:

- Understanding the Community:** Students will explore how to access and utilise local facilities such as libraries, community centres, healthcare services, and recreational areas. They will learn how these resources can support their daily lives and personal development.
- Navigating Public Transport:** The lesson covers practical skills for travelling independently, including how to plan routes using walking paths and bus networks. Students will learn how to read timetables, use bus passes, and understand safety guidelines for public transport.
- Personal and Social Development:** Students will be guided through important topics such as forming and maintaining safe relationships, recognising healthy boundaries, and ensuring online safety. The lesson will cover how to interact respectfully with others and understand social expectations.
- Behaviour in the community:** Emphasis will be placed on understanding and understanding social expectations within various contexts, from public spaces to personal interactions. This includes practising appropriate behaviour and communication in different social settings.

By integrating these components, the Life Skills Builder lessons aligns with the Skills Builder framework, offering students a comprehensive approach to personal and social development. This lesson prepares students to navigate their community with confidence, make safe and informed decisions, and develop the skills needed for successful interactions and independence.

BTEC Home Cooking

Level 1 & 2

The BTEC Home Cooking Skills course at Levels 1 and 2 focuses on developing practical cooking skills, promoting healthy eating, and understanding kitchen practices.

Objective: The course builds practical cooking skills, from basic to more advanced techniques, and teaches students about healthy eating and meal planning.

Key Components:

1.Cooking Techniques: Students start with basic methods such as boiling and frying, and progress to more advanced techniques like baking from scratch and creating sauces.

2.Kitchen Safety: Emphasis on safe food handling, hygiene, and proper use of kitchen equipment throughout both levels.

3.Recipes and Meal Preparation: Level 1 focuses on preparing simple dishes, while Level 2 involves cooking more complex meals and planning balanced menus.

4.Nutritional Knowledge: Students learn basic nutrition at Level 1 and gain a deeper understanding of dietary requirements and meal planning at Level 2.

5.Presentation Skills: At Level 2, students also focus on presenting dishes attractively and understanding the aesthetics of cooking.

Assessment: Students are evaluated on their ability to prepare and cook dishes, demonstrate safe kitchen practices, plan and budget for meals, and apply cooking techniques and nutritional knowledge.

This combined approach helps students build foundational cooking skills and advance to more complex culinary tasks while understanding the importance of healthy eating and meal presentation.

BTEC Home Cooking

Level 1 & 2



BTEC Introductory Award

Art

Level 1

The BTEC Art and Design Level 1 course includes a unit titled "Creating an Art Image," which is designed to help students develop their skills in producing artwork.

Objective: This unit introduces students to creating art from initial concept to final piece, encouraging exploration of various materials and techniques to express their ideas.

Key Components:

1.Exploration of Ideas: Students develop and refine their artistic concepts through research, experimentation, and inspiration from existing artworks.

2.Materials and Techniques: They experiment with different materials (such as pencils, paints, or digital tools) and techniques (such as drawing, photography or painting) to find effective ways to realise their ideas.

3.Artwork Development: Students create their final art piece, making decisions about composition, colour, and form to communicate their artistic intent.

4.Evaluation and Reflection: They review their work, considering what worked well and identifying areas for improvement, reflecting on their creative process.

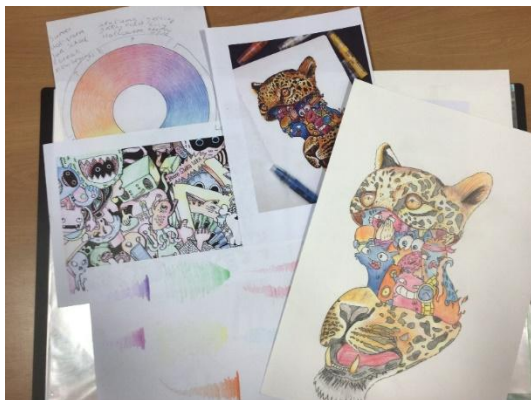
5.Presentation: Students present their final artwork, learning to showcase it in a professional manner, which may involve mounting or framing.

Assessment: This focuses on the student's creative process, the quality of the final artwork, and their ability to refine and evaluate their work. The unit helps build foundational art skills and confidence for those new to art and design.

BTEC Introductory Award

Art

Level 1



BTEC Introductory Award

Sports Coaching

Level 1

The BTEC Sport Level 1 unit "Assisting in a Practical Activity" focuses on developing skills to support and assist in practical sports activities.

Objective: The unit aims to teach students how to assist and lead in delivering sports activities, helping them develop skills needed to effectively contribute to practical sports coaching sessions.

Key Components:

1.Understanding Roles: Students learn about different roles and responsibilities in sports sessions, including the role of a coach in setting up and managing activities.

2.Preparing Activities: They gain skills in preparing equipment and setting up for practical sports sessions, ensuring everything is ready for use.

3.Supporting Participants: Students practice supporting participants during activities, including helping with instructions, managing safety, and providing encouragement.

4.Monitoring and Feedback: They learn to monitor participants' performance, provide feedback, and help address any issues that arise during the activity.

Assessment: Students are assessed based on their ability to assist and lead effectively in practical sports activities, including preparation, support, and adherence to health and safety guidelines.

This unit helps students build practical skills for supporting sports activities, essential for roles such as coaching assistants or sports leaders.

BTEC Introductory Award Sports Coaching

Level 1



BTEC Introductory Award

Land Based Studies –

Animal Care

Level 1

The BTEC Land-Based Studies course includes a unit titled "Caring for and Feeding Animals," which focuses on the essential skills and knowledge needed to care for animals.

Objective:

The unit aims to teach students how to effectively care for and feed animals, covering the basics of animal welfare, nutrition, and husbandry practices.

Key Components:

1. Animal Welfare: Students learn about the fundamental principles of animal welfare, including the needs and rights of animals, and how to ensure their well-being.

2. Feeding Practices: The unit covers proper feeding practices, including understanding nutritional requirements for different types of animals, preparing and providing food, and maintaining feeding schedules.

3. Health Monitoring: Students gain skills in monitoring animal health, recognizing signs of illness or distress, and understanding basic health care practices.

4. Environmental Management: Emphasis is placed on managing the animals' living environment, including cleanliness, habitat maintenance, and creating suitable living conditions.

Assessment:

Students are assessed on their ability to apply care and feeding practices, including their understanding of animal welfare, health monitoring, and effective handling techniques. This unit provides foundational knowledge and skills for students interested in careers in animal care, veterinary support, or other land-based industries involving animals.

BTEC Introductory Award

Land Based Studies –

Animal Care

Level 1



BTEC Introductory Award

Business

Level 1

The BTEC Business unit "Running an Event" focuses on the practical aspects of planning, organising, and executing an event. Here's an overview of the unit:

Objective:

The unit aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully run an event, covering all stages from planning to execution.

Key Components:

1.Event Planning: Students learn how to plan an event, including setting objectives, defining the target audience, and creating a detailed plan and timeline.

2.Budgeting: The unit covers budgeting for an event, including estimating costs, managing expenses, and ensuring financial control throughout the event planning process.

3.Logistics: Students gain skills in organising logistical aspects such as venue selection, equipment rental, and coordinating with suppliers and vendors.

4.Promotion and Marketing: The unit includes strategies for promoting the event, such as creating marketing materials, using social media, and managing public relations.

5.Execution and Management: Students learn how to manage the event on the day, including overseeing operations, handling any issues that arise, and ensuring the event runs smoothly.

6.Evaluation: After the event, students assess its success, gather feedback, and analyse what worked well and what could be improved for future events.

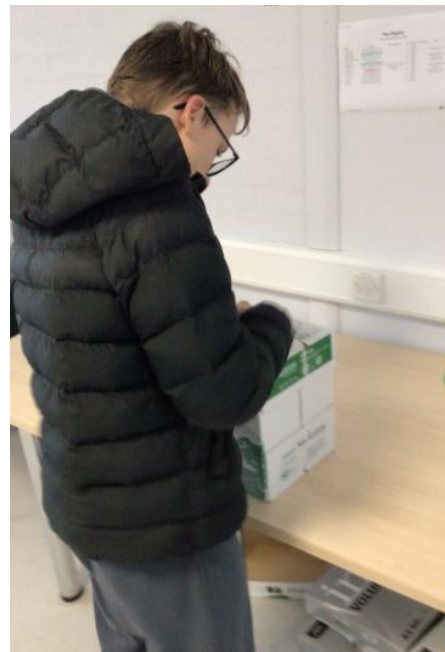
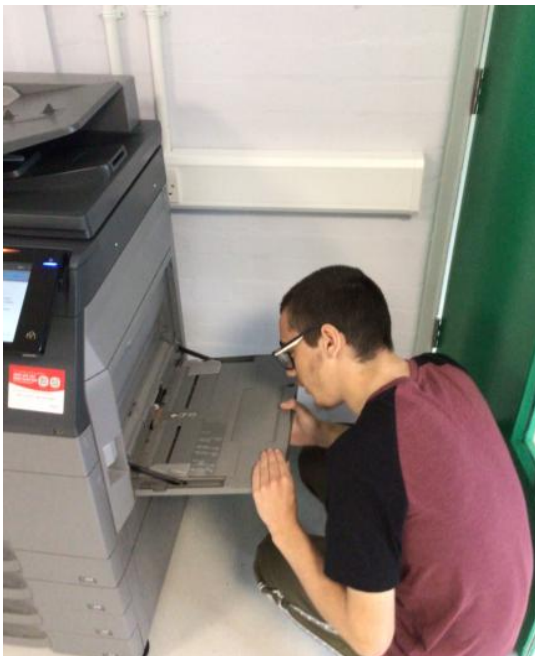
Assessment:

Students are evaluated on their ability to plan, organise, and execute an event effectively, as well as their problem-solving and communication skills.

This unit provides practical experience in event management, preparing students for roles in event planning, marketing, and operations.

BTEC Introductory Award Business

Level 1



BTEC Introductory Award

Land Based Studies –

Estate Maintenance

Level 1

The BTEC Level 1 course in Land-Based Studies includes a unit titled "Developing Estate Maintenance Skills," which focuses on the essential skills needed for maintaining and managing land and property.

Objective:

The unit aims to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge in estate maintenance, covering various tasks and techniques essential for managing and maintaining land-based properties.

Key Components:

1.Maintenance Techniques: Students learn basic techniques for maintaining land and property including fencing, gardening and plumbing.

2.Tools and Equipment: The unit covers the use and maintenance of tools and equipment commonly used in estate management, including how to handle and store them safely.

3.Health and Safety: Emphasis is placed on understanding and applying health and safety practices related to estate maintenance, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe working procedures with hand and power tools.

4.Practical Skills: The unit includes hands-on activities where students apply their skills estate maintenance tasks, developing practical experience in construction tools and materials.

Assessment:

Assessment involves practical demonstrations of maintenance tasks, written assignments on safety and equipment use, audits and planning stages of the tasks to undertake.

This unit equips students with essential skills for maintaining land-based properties, preparing them for roles in maintenance and groundskeeping.

BTEC Introductory Award

Land Based Studies –

Estate Maintenance

Level 1



Communigrow

Communigrow is a charity that offers hands-on learning experiences through outdoor activities, mainly gardening. It gives students a chance to build life skills, grow in confidence, and gain practical experience in a supportive setting.

Learning from Nature

Students take part in gardening tasks like planting, harvesting, and caring for crops. This helps them connect with nature and learn about sustainability.

Skill Development

Students can build:

1. **Practical skills:** Gardening and using tools.
2. **Social skills:** Working in teams and communicating with others.
3. **Life skills:** Learning about food, healthy eating, and responsibility for the environment.

Support for Students

Communigrow is especially helpful for our students. The outdoor learning style suits students who may struggle in traditional classrooms. Staff and volunteers provide tailored support to make sure each student feels comfortable and learns at their own pace.

Work Experience and Employability

Students also learn work-related skills like time management, following instructions, and taking responsibility. These skills are useful for future jobs, linking well to the Skills Builder framework, which focuses on teamwork, problem-solving, and communication.

Travel Training

In travel training lessons, students participate in practical trips around the local community, such as visits to supermarkets and community facilities. These outings aim to support students in learning how to navigate new environments and make successful transitions to different places. The experience encourages them to develop an understanding of the wider world while honing essential communication skills.

Aligned with the Skills Builder framework, these lessons often emphasise specific skills:

- Listening:** Following directions and understanding spoken instructions.
- Speaking:** Practising polite inquiries and engaging in conversations with community members.
- Problem Solving:** Navigating unexpected changes, such as route adjustments or new instructions.
- Teamwork:** Working together with peers and supporting each other on trips.
- Staying Positive:** Adapting to different locations and situations, building resilience, and maintaining a positive outlook.

Through these structured activities, students enhance their independence, social understanding, and confidence in moving through and interacting with their community.

In these travel training lessons, students use the ASDAN Personal Progress framework to assess their development and achievements. This framework allows them to reflect on their growth in independence, social skills, and confidence as they navigate community settings. Through ASDAN, students track specific milestones, set personalised goals, and gain a sense of accomplishment in their journey toward greater autonomy and life skills.

Enrichment

The Enrichment lesson is designed as a dynamic and engaging program where students participate in a variety of activities aimed at developing a wide range of skills. These activities include Lego therapy, which enhances social communication and problem-solving skills; art, fostering creativity and self-expression; photography, helping students develop technical and observational skills; sport, promoting physical fitness and teamwork; and maintenance, encouraging practical, hands-on abilities.

Additionally, students engage in newsletter writing, which supports literacy, communication, and organisational skills, as well as enterprise and fundraising, where they learn about teamwork, money management, and business concepts. Travel training is also a key component, teaching students essential skills for independent travel and navigation within their community. Singing and dancing offer students the chance to build confidence, coordination, and emotional expression.

The primary aim of these sessions is to tailor activities to each student's individual needs, as outlined in their EHCP and provision plan targets. The lessons are carefully designed to support interventions and help students make progress in key areas, such as communication, social interaction, independence, and resilience. The Skills Builder framework is integrated into these sessions, ensuring students enhance core competencies like listening, speaking, problem-solving, and staying positive.

By rotating through these activities every six weeks, students can engage with a diverse set of challenges and experiences, promoting their personal growth and development. This variety also helps students discover new interests and strengths while providing opportunities to build transferable skills that will support them in future work, education, and daily life.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental health support plays a crucial role in helping students succeed academically and personally. By creating an enriching and nurturing learning environment, schools can empower students to thrive. The personalised plans developed in collaboration with students allow educators to address each individual's strengths, challenges, and interests, creating a tailored approach to learning and development.

Access to **therapy dogs**, enrichment activities like **boxing, dancing, and singing**, and other therapeutic outlets promotes self-awareness, social skills, and emotional resilience. These activities not only provide a break from the academic routine but also help students to develop coping mechanisms, improve their mood, and foster a positive mindset.

Additionally, group sessions conducted by **Mental Health professionals** target specific student needs, allowing for focused interventions and support. The presence of a **school counsellor** and trained staff ensures that students have access to guidance on personal development, nurturing their growth and emotional well-being. Staff receive training in **Mental Health, nurture, and trauma**, equipping them to provide trauma-informed care and be responsive to the emotional and psychological needs of students.

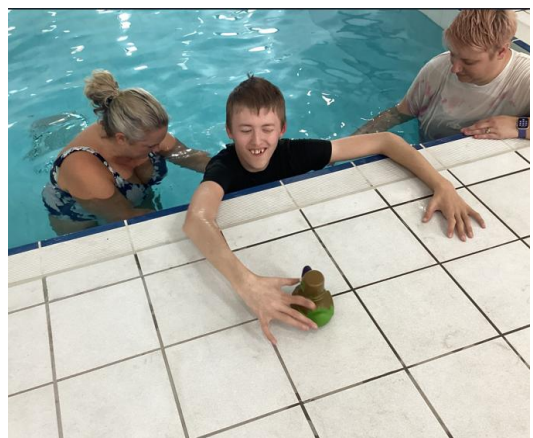
Furthermore, schools can **signpost to external providers** when specialised support is required, ensuring that students have access to a broad range of resources, both internal and external, to support their mental health journey.

By offering these supports, schools help to foster resilience, emotional regulation, and self-confidence, which are essential for students' overall progress and well-being. These mental health interventions lead to improved engagement, focus, and the ability to navigate challenges, enhancing both academic performance and personal development.

Therapy

At Five Acre Wood, we pride ourselves on fostering and enriching a dynamic learning environment that recognises and nurtures the unique potential of every student. Our commitment extends to incorporating universal therapies and specialised approaches into our curriculum.

TEACCH, Makaton, pre-teaching vocabulary, fine and gross motor skills and physiotherapy are all incorporated into the students' daily programmes. We also work with school and other therapists to ensure that all our students' therapy needs are met.



Community Projects

Students participate in a range of community initiatives designed to deepen their understanding of the wider community and encourage active involvement. These initiatives include:

- Community and School-Based Allotments:** Students grow plants and vegetables, working alongside other primary schools to learn about sustainability and develop responsibility for nurturing plants.
- Local Church Engagement:** Students help run tea and toast sessions at the church, work in the kitchenette, and interact with churchgoers, building social and communication skills.
- Library Visits:** Students use the local library, enhancing their access to resources and learning about the value of public spaces for education and personal growth.
- Coffee Mornings:** Students organise and run coffee mornings, fostering community interaction and hospitality skills.
- Supporting School Events and Visitors:** Students assist with whole-school events and greet visitors, contributing to a welcoming school environment.
- Community Litter Picking:** Students participate in local litter-picking projects, learning about environmental responsibility and contributing to the cleanliness of their community.
- Gardening Projects at the Train Station:** Students develop gardening beds around the local train station, improving public spaces and applying their gardening skills in the community.

These activities help students build a sense of community, improve their social skills, and foster an understanding of how they can contribute positively to the world around them.



Art, Gardening and Construction

In vocational lessons focused on art, gardening, and construction, students gain practical skills that contribute to both their school environment and their personal growth. These lessons are connected to the ASDAN Personal Progress curriculum, which allows students to document and reflect on their achievements, and the Skills Builder framework, which helps them develop essential skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and resilience.

- Art:** Students work on creative projects that enhance school spaces, such as murals or decorative designs. These activities foster creativity, precision, and planning skills, building confidence in expressing ideas visually.

- Gardening:** Through tasks like planting, pruning, and maintaining green areas, students learn about plant care, environmental responsibility, and teamwork. Gardening activities also promote well-being, providing a calming outlet that connects students with nature and builds patience and perseverance.

- Construction:** Hands-on construction projects help students develop practical skills in measuring, assembling, and safely using tools. These projects teach them problem-solving and attention to detail, instilling a sense of accomplishment as they see tangible outcomes from their efforts.

As students build skills in these areas, they gain a clearer understanding of their strengths and interests. This self-awareness supports them in making informed decisions about potential future pathways, as they explore which skills they may wish to further develop.

Art and Construction



Sport

In sport, yoga, and swimming lessons, students work on developing a range of physical skills that contribute to their overall health, coordination, and strength. These activities are designed to engage students in fun, accessible ways, encouraging a positive attitude toward physical fitness and fostering a foundation for lifelong participation in sport.

- Sport lessons:** Students engage in various team and individual sports to improve coordination, endurance, and teamwork skills. By trying different sports, they discover activities they enjoy, which helps build a lasting interest in fitness.

- Yoga:** Through stretching, balancing, and breathing exercises, yoga helps students improve flexibility, concentration, and body awareness. The practice also introduces them to relaxation techniques, promoting mental and physical well-being.

- Swimming:** In the pool, students learn swimming techniques, water safety, and confidence in aquatic environments. Swimming supports full-body fitness and is an enjoyable way for students to exercise independently or with friends.

These lessons not only build physical skills but also aim to instil a love for physical activity that students can carry with them into adulthood, encouraging a commitment to their health and well-being.



SMSC and PSHE

At Five Acre Wood, our successes are celebrated however big or small. We learn that every individual has different beliefs and enjoy understanding what they may be. Our teachers help us to understand right from wrong and we are encouraged to become respectful citizens. We are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

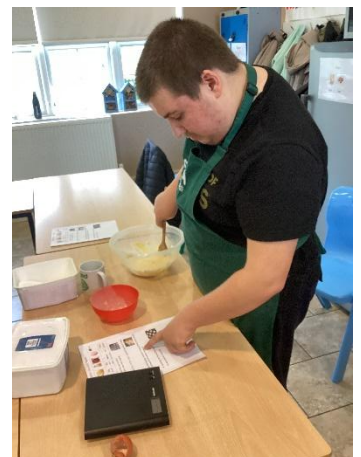


Shopping & Cooking

In shopping and cooking lessons, students engage with a variety of tasks that align with the specific elements of the Skills Builder framework, helping them develop essential skills for independent living and future work opportunities. Through these lessons, students gain valuable life skills that help them become more independent, better at managing tasks, and more confident in their ability to navigate the world around them.

- **Listening:** Students follow instructions during shopping and cooking, ensuring they understand tasks like meal planning, budgeting, and food safety.
- **Speaking:** Students communicate with peers, teachers, and shop staff, practicing how to ask for help, discuss their meal plans, and request items.
- **Problem Solving:** When planning meals and managing budgets, students think critically, adapting to challenges like missing ingredients or adjusting recipes.
- **Creativity:** Students plan meals and experiment with different ingredients and cooking methods, making personal choices about their meals.
- **Staying Positive:** Students remain positive when facing challenges in cooking, building patience and resilience as they learn from mistakes.
- **Teamwork:** Students work together in the kitchen, sharing tasks, supporting each other, and collaborating to prepare meals.
- **Aiming High:** Students set goals for themselves, such as mastering a recipe or staying within budget, and challenge themselves to improve.
- **Leadership:** Some students take on leadership roles, managing tasks or guiding peers, which builds confidence in their ability to lead.

Shopping & Cooking



Tutor Time

During tutor time, students engage in a variety of activities designed to support their understanding of the curriculum and progress toward their EHCP targets. Each day, they participate in tasks linked to key areas such as communication and interaction, cognition and learning, preparation for adulthood, social, emotional and mental health, and physical and sensory development.

Students discuss their progress with staff, identifying strategies and interventions they can use throughout the day to work towards their targets. They take ownership of their learning by actively applying these strategies in real-time situations.

At the end of each day, students reflect on their achievements, assess their progress toward their provision plan targets, and evaluate their understanding of the Skills Builder framework. Some students use **target sheets** to track their progress, writing down their goals and marking off achievements, helping them visualise their progress and take ownership of their learning. Others use **photos** taken throughout the day to capture key moments and share their progress, providing a visual way to discuss their accomplishments. This reflection process helps students identify areas for further development and encourages a proactive approach to their learning and growth.

Onward Pathways & Transition Support

Our aim in the functional learning approach is that, when our students leave, they have the skills, certificates and qualifications that acknowledge their capabilities and achievements to stand them in good stead for life after school.

Students have the opportunity to achieve a range of qualifications, including level 1 and level 2, to support their application to SPI and mainstream colleges. They gain a wide variety of skills and from vocational lessons and work experience opportunities to support their understanding of what courses they would like to apply for, as well as using their skills and interests to inform their choices for day service provisions.

As our lessons are taught as functionally as possible, our aim is for students to be able develop the skills to access their world beyond Five Acre Wood as independently as possible.

We work closely with post-19 provisions to ensure a smooth transition for students into their next placements and transition and have targeted sessions with individuals to help them prepare for what's next. By sharing information about entry requirements, open days, and available support, we help students and their families make informed choices and feel prepared for the next steps in their educational or vocational journey.

Further information about onward pathways can be found on the following links:

Social care providers: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/adult-social-care/care-and-support/day-centres>

Mainstream and SPI Colleges: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training>



Five Acre Wood School – Maidstone

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