

The NCFE logo is displayed vertically in the top left corner. It consists of the letters 'N', 'C', 'F', and 'E' stacked one above the other, each within its own white rectangular box. The background of the entire image is a photograph of a young Black woman in a school uniform, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is holding a paintbrush and working on a canvas. Other students are visible in the background, slightly out of focus.

**N
C
F
E**

**Our 14-16
schools offer**

Why choose a vocational qualification?

Developing a broad and balanced Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum is key to improving the quality of education in schools. Delivering a mixture of academic and technical/vocational qualifications allows you to build an engaging, full curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil.

Allowing pupils to explore and experience different forms of education will give them a solid base to understand their own strengths, skills and talents, and make the right choices about which path to follow. We'll support you in creating a programme that boosts each pupil's potential and drives results across your school.

We offer:

- V Cert Technical Awards
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) qualifications
- English and maths.



About our V Certs

Our V Certs are vocational equivalents to GCSEs and count towards the Open Group of your Progress 8 measures. Designed in collaboration with employers and practitioners, they empower your pupils with industry-relevant skills and knowledge appropriate to a range of growing sectors, giving them a taste of what it's like to complete real-world tasks and projects.

V Certs are designed to fit seamlessly into your KS4 curriculum. We assess pupils using project-based non-exam assessments, as well as external examinations, to give them the opportunity to achieve based on their skills as well as their knowledge.

We're here to support you every step of the way and provide a range of tools to help you get off to a flying start:

- Free classroom packs containing ready-to-go teaching and learning materials
- "Prep to Teach" events led by our Provider Development team
- Regular subject-specific teacher continuing professional development (CPD) sessions.



Supporting you every step of the way

Our aim is to provide you with a solution that meets the needs of all your pupils. Our V Certs are designed to help you build a broad, balanced and inclusive KS4 curriculum that empowers learners to achieve their potential.

Teachers and pupils will benefit from:

- A structure that mirrors GCSEs – making them feel more familiar to teachers who haven't delivered vocational qualifications before
- Course content and teaching resources to reflect the latest needs and requirements from employers
- Reduced admin for teachers with only one internal assessment alongside one external exam
- A more streamlined delivery model, with no summative assessments until the final year of study.

Example of a typical V Cert delivery model

V Cert structure											
Year 1											
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Delivery											
Year 2											
September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
NEA brief released	Delivery			NEA delivery				Examined assessment		Certification	



My dream is to study paramedic science and become a paramedic in the NHS and the NCFE V Certs have given me the skills to pursue my dream."

Matthew, pupil at Ormiston Rivers Academy

Subject areas

All of our V Certs are combined Level 1/Level 2, to recognise the achievements of pupils of all abilities. This means that they're graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, through to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which is the equivalent to GCSE grades 1-8.5.



Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness

Our Health and Fitness V Cert provides core knowledge to pupils who are passionate about fitness and performance – from the structure and function of body systems and the effects of health and fitness activities on the body, through to the principles of training and how to structure a health and fitness programme.

What's next?

- Further study: an A Level in Physical Education and Sport or an Applied General in Sport at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as a personal trainer or community sport and health officer.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Sports Studies

Focusing on a range of important and topical content areas – including ethics and technology in sport to psychology for sports performance – this V Cert can help pupils on their way to a career in sports coaching, sports management, and physiotherapy.

What's next?

- Further study: an A Level in Physical Education and Sport, or a Level 3 study programme in sports coaching at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as a sporting excellence professional or outdoor activity instructor.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care (CACHE)

Our CACHE health and social care qualifications are the hallmark of quality, as market leaders in this area. This qualification prepares pupils to enter the health and social care sector with the knowledge, skills and behaviours to succeed. They'll learn about the many rewarding job roles available across the sector, the care values that underpin professional practice, and the legislation and procedures in health and social care.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Health or Healthcare Science, or Applied Generals or Level 3 study programmes in health and social care at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as an adult carer or youth support worker.



Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years (CACHE)

This qualification will help pupils learn about the effects of biological and environmental factors on the growth of a child, the importance of play and activities in a child's healthy development, and understand the ways to make a positive impact in this field.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Education and Childcare or Applied General at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as an early years educator or teaching assistant.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

Studying this V Cert will give pupils the core skills and knowledge they'll need to prepare for an enterprising career. They'll learn how a business is structured, who stakeholders are and why they're important, and will gain an understanding of the different areas of a business, from HR and finance to operations and marketing.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Management and Administration, or a Business A Level or Applied General at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: in business administration or as a marketing assistant.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering

By studying the engineering process from end to end, pupils will learn core skills such as production planning techniques, Computer-Aided Design (CAD) drawings, and applied processing skills and techniques, helping to begin their journey into further study or a career in engineering.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control, or an A Level or Applied General in Engineering
- Apprenticeship: in welding, lean manufacturing or as a metal fabricator.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery

Studying our V Cert in Food and Cookery will give pupils the fundamental skills and knowledge they'll need to prepare for a career in the hospitality and catering sector. This qualification covers key subject areas, from food health and safety and information on key food groups and key nutrients, to recipe development, amendment and evaluation.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Catering, Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition, or an Advanced Technical Diploma in Professional Cookery
- Apprenticeship: as a production chef, commis chef or chef de partie.

"I've really enjoyed my NCFE Food and Cookery V Cert. I've been able to learn so many new skills and gained a thorough understanding of all the areas of cooking to take me to the next level."

Luke, pupil at Newall Green High School

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production

From arts and crafts to postmodernism – our Creative Design and Production V Cert will allow pupils to explore the history of design, whilst learning the key principles of design, materials and production to enable them to bring their creations to life.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Craft and Design, A Level in Design and Technology, or an Applied General in Art and Design at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: in jewellery design or furniture making.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Interactive Media

This V Cert is an exciting first step for pupils interested in working in interactive media. Pupils will gain insight into all types of interactive media products, learning about their features and their audiences before delving into how to develop, promote and present an interactive media product.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production or an A Level in Media Studies at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as a junior content producer or broadcast production assistant.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Graphic Design

From planning and development through to designing and presenting – this qualification will help creative pupils to understand the work and the processes of a graphic designer, whilst helping them to take their first steps into a career or further study in this sector.

What's next?

- Further study: a Level 3 National Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art and Design Practice (Graphic Design), or an A Level in Graphic Design at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as a junior advertising creative.

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology

From sound creation, to the digital audio workstation (DAW), to multitrack recording – this V Cert will help pupils to learn many of the core skills and behaviours that they'll need to become adept and enter a career path within the field of music technology.

What's next?

- Further study: a T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production or an A Level in Music at college or sixth form
- Apprenticeship: as a live event rigger.

We care about helping you to get it right when it comes to the delivery of vocational qualifications. We'll support you every step of the way. Plus, we'll provide you with free teaching and learning resources, CPD events and more.

Read more at ncfe.org.uk/vcerts



More for 14-16

Beyond our V Cert qualifications, we also offer the following vocational and technical qualifications for 14-16 pupils.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

RSHE is now compulsory for all schools, and we want teachers to be equipped with the qualifications and resources to deliver this essential subject effectively within the broader curriculum.

Our flexible RSHE qualifications are available in three sizes, all suited to different year groups, or they can be delivered unit by unit.

Level 2 Certificate in Relationships, Sex and Health Education 168 GLH
Full RSHE suite, including all 5 units listed below.

Level 1 Award in Relationships, Sex and Health Education 72 GLH
[Unit 1] Relationships, Sex and Health Education (Year 7) 36 GLH
[Unit 2] Relationships, Sex and Health Education (Year 8) 36 GLH

Level 2 Award in Relationships, Sex and Health Education 96 GLH
[Unit 1] Relationships, Sex and Health Education (Year 9) 36 GLH
[Unit 1] Relationships, Sex and Health Education (Year 10) 36 GLH
[Unit 1] Relationships, Sex and Health Education (Year 11) 24 GLH

Delivering a structured programme of RSHE using our qualifications can evidence pupil understanding of this subject, as well as helping you to meet Ofsted expectations in line with the education inspection framework (EIF). It will also give your pupils valuable recognition of their achievements in this subject area.

For more information, visit ncfe.org.uk/rshe



English, maths and ICT

Our English, maths and ICT products will equip your pupils with the vital literacy, numeracy and digital skills that they need to complete as part of their vocational study. They offer a wide variety of routes to help your pupils achieve what they need to progress. We offer:

- **Functional Skills:** providing practical skills in English, maths and ICT. With flexible on demand assessments, quick results and full support from our subject specialists, these qualifications are ideal to support those pupils requiring an alternative route in English, maths and ICT from Key Stage 3 upwards.
- **Essential English and maths certificates:** essential English and maths in everyday life qualifications are an option for your pupils who are looking for an alternative route to gaining the core skills that they will need in everyday life. These qualifications allow you to build a flexible learning programme that collects evidence of achievement along the way, rather than through a final assessment. They come fully equipped with free resources that guide you through the content and all we ask for is a small charitable donation per registration that goes directly to The Princes Trust.
- **Skills Builder:** our portfolio of diagnostic and assessment tools provide leading eLearning solutions for Functional Skills, GCSEs and digital skills. The One Assessment tool provides initial assessment of your pupils' English and maths levels in preparation for Functional Skills or GCSE English and maths in only 30 minutes. This allows you to provide pupils with a fast and effective plan for their skills gaps along with resources to support out of class learning. Skills Builder allows you to take those initial results and track pupils' progress throughout the session, while our Quality Dashboard provides you with the reporting tools to support any Ofsted inspection.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/english-and-maths

Further progression



Completion of one (or more) of our 14-16 qualifications will open up a wide array of opportunities for your pupils, enabling them to continue on their learning journey.

If your school has a sixth form attached to it, we've got some great options for post-16 students to continue on their journey with NCFE.



T Levels

Launched in September 2020, T Levels¹ are a high-quality, work-focused alternative to A Levels for those aged 16-18. These two-year courses are designed with employers to intimately reflect the needs of the sectors and occupations they're designed to serve.

We use deep insight into what employers need to design qualifications for a highly skilled, adaptive future workforce. Our T Level technical qualifications come under two main subject areas:

- Education and Early Years
- Health and Science.

We're also proud to be developing one new T Level technical qualification in Beauty Therapy.

¹T Level is a registered trademark of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. The T Level technical qualification is a qualification approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/t-levels

16 – 19 study programmes: empowering young people to succeed

Our study programmes are designed to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and experiences they need to thrive in further education, employment, and life.

Personalised learning for every student

With six dynamic subject areas, our study programmes offer tailored, high-quality learning experiences that meet the needs and ambitions of every learner. The core qualification within each programme provides a strong foundation for students to develop expertise in their chosen field. Our subject areas include:

- Business
- Education and Early Years
- Travel and Tourism
- Health and Social Care
- Uniformed Services
- Sport

More than just qualifications

We believe education is about achieving a blend of academic success and shaping well-rounded individuals. That's why we provide an enhanced study programme offer that goes beyond qualifications by providing 100 hours of free enrichment activities, helping learners develop critical life and employability skills.

Shaping the future of post-16 education

We're proud to lead the way in delivering enriched study programmes that support young people's progression and help create a brighter, fairer future for all. Together, let's inspire the next generation to achieve their potential.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/technical-education-16-19



Supporting your teachers' skills development with our Accreditation offer

We offer Accreditation and Employer Services to schools that want to give their bespoke in-house training and CPD something extra, with official recognition from one of the UK's biggest awarding organisations.

Our brand and expertise will enable you to demonstrate the quality and rigour of your CPD programme to your teachers.

Our Accreditation Services will:

- Strengthen your framework for CPD within your school, helping to support your teaching staff with their development
- Provide awarding organisation recognition for the successful completion of internal bespoke CPD training (e.g. standardised CPD during induction and ongoing development days)
- Be valued by Ofsted, as a result of the hallmark of quality that the NCFE brand and recognition provides.

We have two different products to choose from within our Accreditation and Employer Services – Customised Qualifications and Endorsed Programmes.

To find out more, visit ncte.org.uk/accreditation





Contact us

Let us help you to boost
your 14-16 curriculum.

Visit: ncfe.org.uk/vcerts

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Phone: **0191 239 8000**