



Parent guide to KS4 vocational education.

Why choose a vocational qualification?

Vocational qualifications offer young people the opportunity to explore and experience different forms of education. This gives them a solid base to understand their own strengths, skills, and talent, helping them to make the right choices about their future.

What are V Certs?

V Certs are our vocational equivalents to GCSEs, designed in collaboration with employers to ensure they equip individuals with the skills the workforce needs.

They empower 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.

Pupils are assessed using project-based non-exam assessments, as well as external exams, giving them the opportunity to achieve based on their skills as well as their knowledge.



Which subjects are available?

All of our V Certs are combined Level 1 / Level 2, to recognise the achievements of pupils of all abilities.

They're graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which are equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5-1.

Health and Fitness

Our V Cert in Health and Fitness provides core knowledge to pupils who are passionate about fitness and performance.

Sports Studies (NEW)

This qualification focuses on topical content to help pupils on their way to a career in sports coaching, sports management and physiotherapy.

Health and Social Care (CACHE)

This qualification prepares pupils to enter the health and social care sector with the knowledge, skills and behaviours to succeed.

Child Development and Care in the Early Years (CACHE)

This V Cert will help pupils learn about the effects of biological and environmental factors on the growth of a child.

Business and Enterprise

Studying this V Cert will give pupils the core skills and knowledge that they'll need to prepare for an enterprising career.

Engineering

By studying the engineering process from end to end, pupils will learn core skills which will help them begin their journey into further study or a career in engineering.

Food and Cookery (NEW)

Studying our new 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.

Creative Design and Production (NEW)

From arts and crafts to postmodernism – this new 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.

Interactive Media

This refreshed V Cert is an exciting first step for pupils interested in working in interactive media.

Graphic Design

From planning and development through to designing and presenting – this V Cert will help creative pupils to understand the work and the processes of a graphic designer.

Music Technology

From sound creation to multitrack recording – this V Cert – this V Cert will help pupils to learn many of the core skills within the field of music technology.



To find out more about V Certs, speak to your school's curriculum team or visit [ncfe.org.uk/vcerts-parents](https://www.ncfe.org.uk/vcerts-parents)