Aspris

Bridge House School

KS4 curriculum

Options booklet 2026-2028



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Dear year 9 parents, students and carers

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Process at Bridge House School!

As you begin this exciting stage of your educational journey, you'll have the opportunity to make some important decisions about the subjects you'll study in Key Stage 4. This is a great time to start thinking about your future goals and to choose subjects that reflect your interests, strengths, and aspirations.

We understand that making these choices can feel a little overwhelming - especially if you're not yet sure what you'd like to do after school. That's completely okay! We're here to support you every step of the way.

This booklet has been designed to help you explore your options and make informed decisions. When choosing your subjects, we encourage you to talk to the people who know you best - your teachers, support staff, and your parents or carers. They can offer valuable advice and help you think about what might suit you as a learner.

While we'll do our best to give everyone their first-choice subjects, this may not always be possible if a course is oversubscribed. That's why it's important to have open conversations at home and complete the attached form carefully.

We're excited to help you take this next step and look forward to seeing the choices you make.

Clare Hiom

Headteacher

Introduction to the KS4 curriculum

This Options Booklet has been created to guide you through the curriculum that students at Bridge House School will follow over the next two years in Key Stage 4. It outlines the content, assessment methods, and learning opportunities for both core and optional subjects.

While a significant part of the curriculum is compulsory, students also have the opportunity to make choices that reflect their interests, strengths, and future ambitions.

Our curriculum vision

At Bridge House School, we believe in providing a bespoke, inclusive education that supports every student to achieve their full potential - socially, emotionally, and academically. Our curriculum is built around the core belief in developing the whole individual. We aim to equip all students with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and values they need to thrive in modern Britain and to take positive steps into their futures as successful, caring members of society.

As students move into Key Stage 4, the focus of their learning begins to shift toward outcomes and future aspirations. The curriculum becomes more tailored, allowing students to explore their interests in greater depth while meeting the requirements for further education and training.

We are proud to offer a curriculum that spans from Entry Level to GCSE, ensuring that every student is placed on the most appropriate pathway based on their prior learning, assessment data, and individual goals. While we aspire for all students to achieve GCSE qualifications, we also recognise that for some, Functional Skills or Entry Level Certificates may be more suitable and equally valuable



Our core subjects

All students will study the following core subjects:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- BTEC Level1/Level2 First Award Principles of Applied Science & BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Award Application of Science
- GCSE Geography
- BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Cert Information and Creative Technology
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)
- In addition, students will have the opportunity to gain:
- Functional Skills qualifications in English and Maths (Level 1 and Level 2), when ready
- AQA Unit Awards linked to their GCSE subjects, providing recognition for progress and achievement

Our optional subjects

Students will choose to study two additional subjects, one from each of the following :

- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Art
- BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Certificate in Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Public Services & Sport BTEC Tech Award Level 1/Level 2
- Animal Care BTEC Tech Award Level 1/Level 2 & BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Agriculture
- BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Digital Media
- BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Construction
- BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Certificate in Hospitality

Core

GCSE English Language and Literature

English is a subject you'll use every day - for life.

From reading and writing to speaking and listening, it powers how you communicate and share ideas. Whether you're debating big ideas, analysing poetry, getting lost in a brilliant novel, or simply wanting to express yourself with confidence, English is a subject that sticks with you long after the lesson ends.

Course roadmap:



Where can English take you?

English Language and Literature open doors to a huge range of careers. The skills you build - communication, creativity, critical thinking - are valued in almost every job.

Possible career pathways include:

- Journalism & Media – journalist, editor, blogger, scriptwriter
- Law & Politics – lawyer, legal assistant, speechwriter, policy advisor
- Education – teacher, lecturer, tutor
- Creative Careers – author, poet, playwright, screenwriter
- Marketing & Advertising – copywriter, content creator, social media manager
- Publishing – editor, proofreader, publisher
- Business & Communications – PR officer, HR, corporate communications
- The Arts & Culture – theatre, arts management, museum or gallery work

English doesn't just prepare you for exams - it prepares you for the world.

If you enjoy reading, debating ideas, expressing yourself, or understanding how language shapes society, English is a powerful choice that keeps your options wide open.

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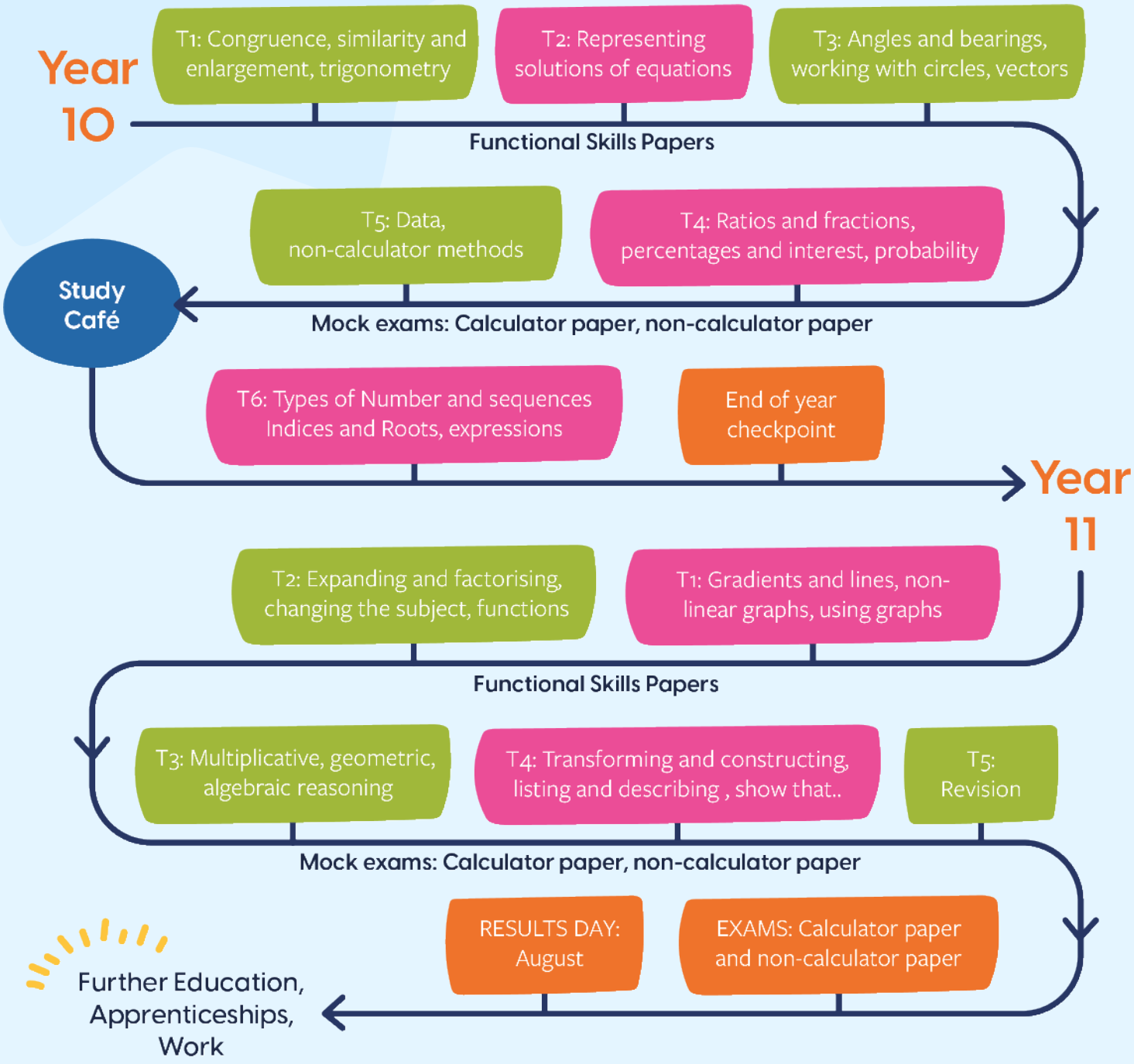
Core

GCSE Maths

Mathematics is everywhere - from decorating a room to managing your money or planning a journey. GCSE Maths helps you make sense of the world by developing your problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. It's not just about numbers; it's about applying maths to real-life situations and learning how to communicate your reasoning clearly and confidently.

Whether you're calculating costs, designing a garden, or working out a staff rota, this course will help you tackle practical problems and explain your thinking with clarity.

Course roadmap:



Where can Maths take you?

Maths is a vital life skill and a powerful tool for your future and it will help you develop the confidence to solve problems, think logically, and make informed decisions in everyday life.

It helps you:

- Solve real-world problems
- Think logically and critically
- Make informed decisions
- Understand data and statistics
- Build confidence in everyday tasks
-

Possible career pathways include:

- Finance
- Engineering
- Computing
- Data Analysis

Whether you're heading into further education, an apprenticeship, or the world of work, the skills you develop in GCSE Maths will support you every step of the way.

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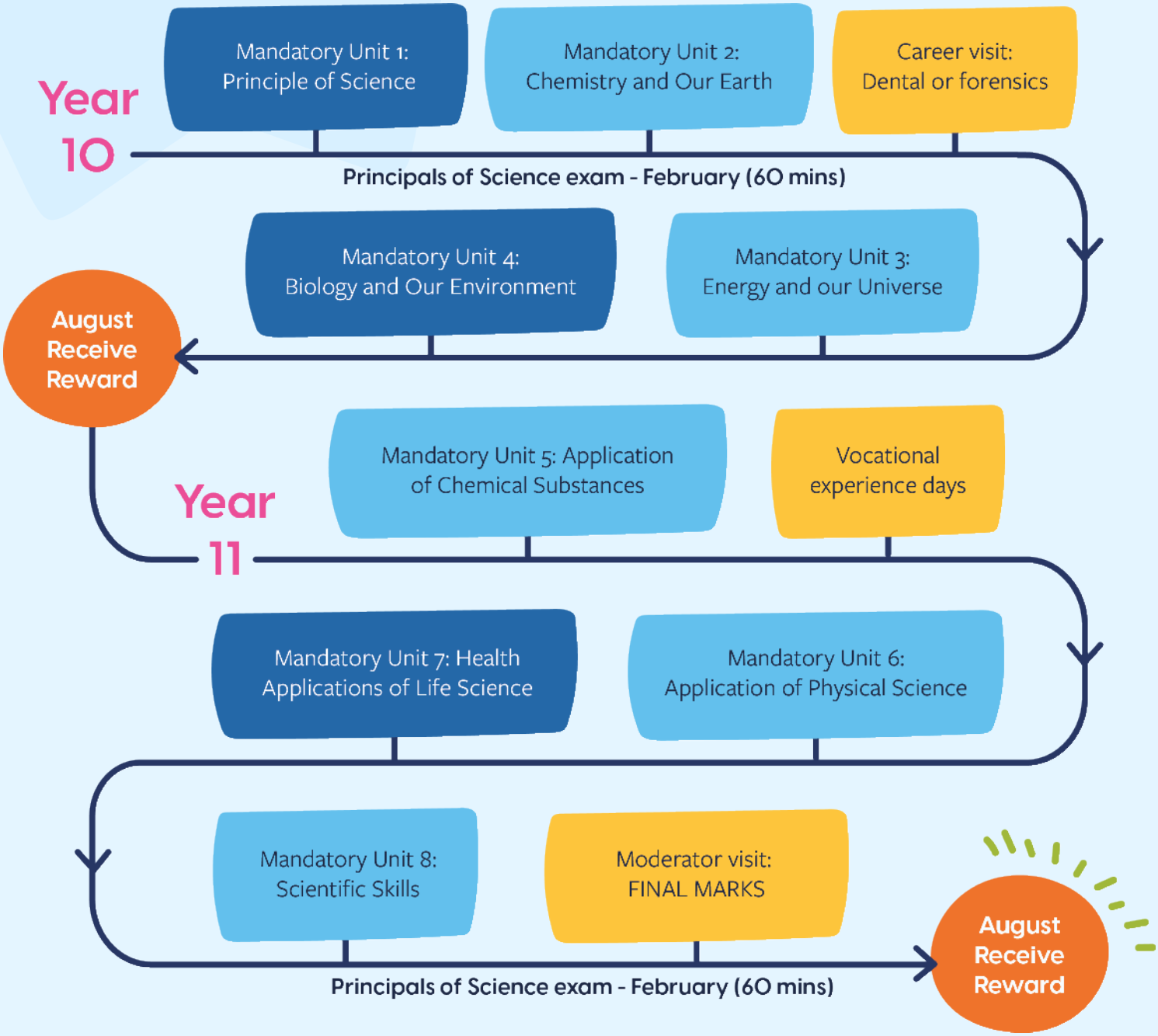
Core

BTEC Applied Science

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Applied Science is a practical and engaging science course designed for students who enjoy learning through hands-on activities. The course links science to real-life situations and careers, helping you understand how scientific ideas are used in everyday life, health, industry and the environment. You will take part in experiments, investigations and problem-solving tasks rather than relying only on written exams.

This course is ideal for students who prefer coursework-based learning and want to develop practical skills alongside scientific knowledge.

Course roadmap:



Where can Applied Science take you?

This course provides a strong foundation for further study and career pathways.

Possible future pathways include:

- BTEC Level 3 courses such as Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Sport or Engineering
- Progression to certain GCSEs or vocational pathways
- Science-based apprenticeships

Possible career pathways include:

- Laboratory technician
- Healthcare assistant
- Environmental worker
- Engineer

The skills developed are valued by colleges, apprenticeships and employers, especially in science-based, technical and healthcare industries.

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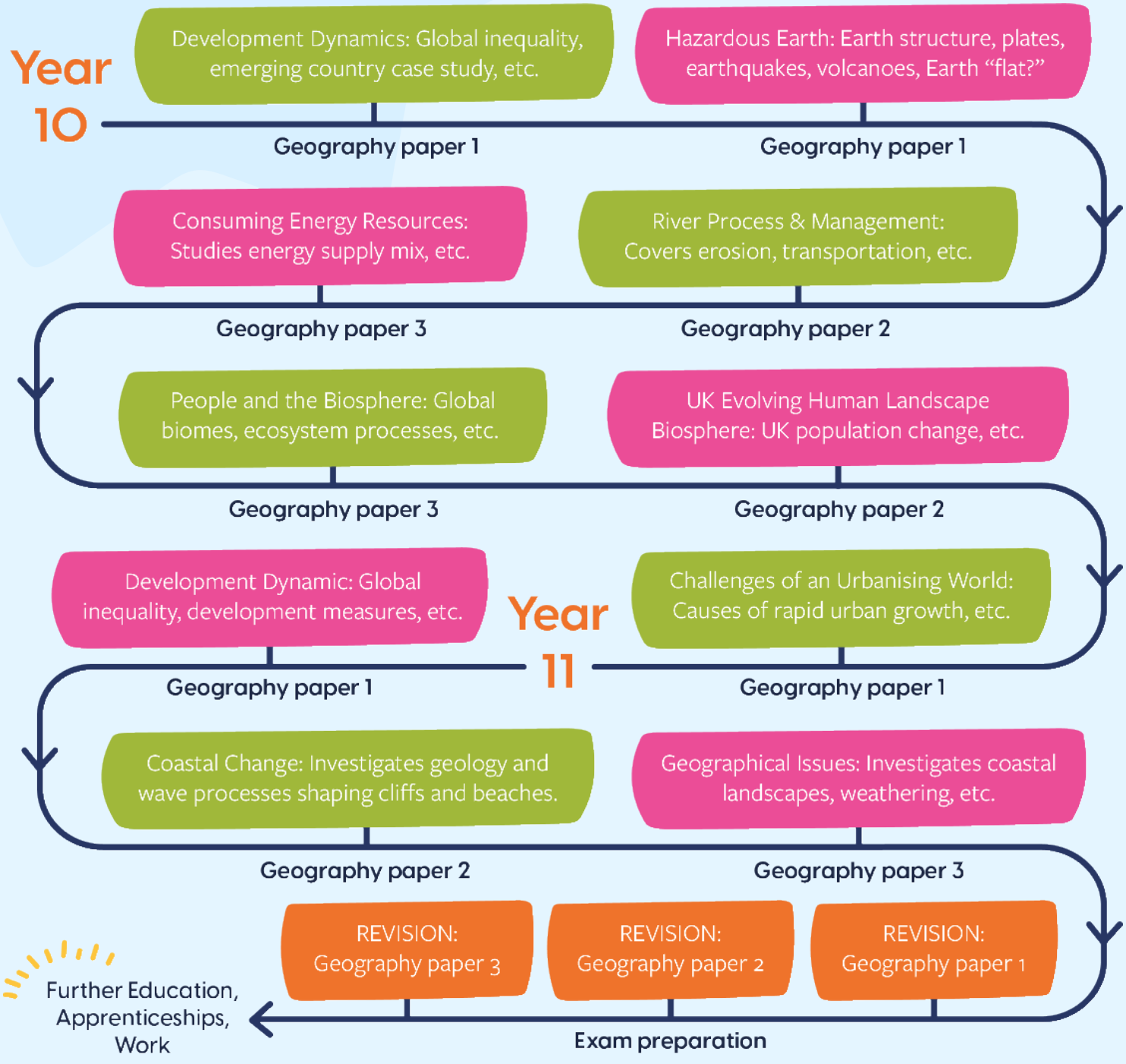
Core

GCSE Geography

Geography helps you make sense of the world around you. Through this course, you'll explore a wide range of global and local issues - everything from natural hazards and climate change to urban growth and energy use. You'll become a more informed, critical thinker and develop a deeper understanding of how people interact with the environment.

There's also a strong focus on fieldwork, giving you the chance to apply your knowledge outside the classroom and develop practical geographical skills.

Course roadmap:



Where can Geography take you?

GCSE Geography opens the door to a wide range of further study and career opportunities. It's a great foundation for A-level Geography, Environmental Science, Travel and Tourism, and more.

Possible career pathways include:

- Environmental Agencies (e.g. Environment Agency, Natural England)
- Tourism and Leisure Services (e.g. National Parks, heritage sites)
- Civil Service and Local Government
- Armed Forces (e.g. Army, Navy)
- Airlines and Cargo Services
- Urban Planning, Conservation, and Climate Advisory Roles

Geography is a subject that helps you understand the past, present, and future of our planet—and your place in it.

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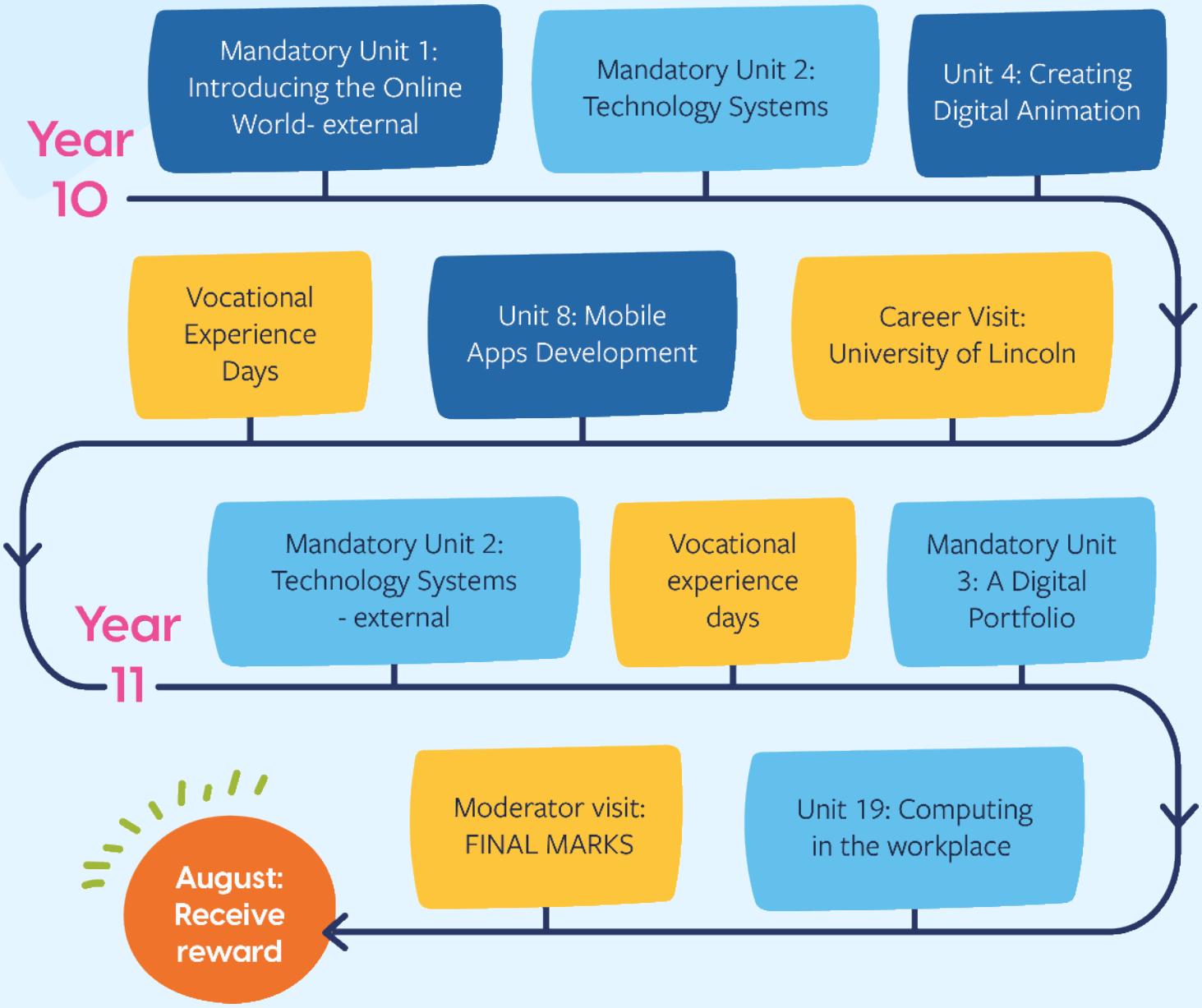
BTEC IT

If you're interested in a future where technology plays a key role - or you're simply looking for a practical, hands-on course that opens doors to further study - BTEC IT is a great place to start.

This course gives you the chance to explore how IT is used in real-world industries and businesses. You'll develop practical skills using a variety of software applications, while also gaining valuable knowledge about how IT supports modern life and work.

With digital technology being one of the UK's fastest-growing and highest-paying sectors, this course is your first step toward a rewarding and future-ready career.

Course roadmap:



Where can IT take you?

IT prepares students for a world that increasingly relies on technology.

Possible future pathways include:

- Further study in IT, Computing, Business, or Media at college
- Entry-level jobs or apprenticeships in a wide range of IT and business environments
- A strong foundation for careers in areas such as technical support, digital marketing, software development, or data analysis
-

Possible career pathways include:

- Computing
- Cybersecurity
- Gaming
- Business Administration
- Engineering
- Office-based roles

Whether you're aiming for further education or jumping into the world of work, BTEC IT gives you the skills and confidence to succeed in a digital world.

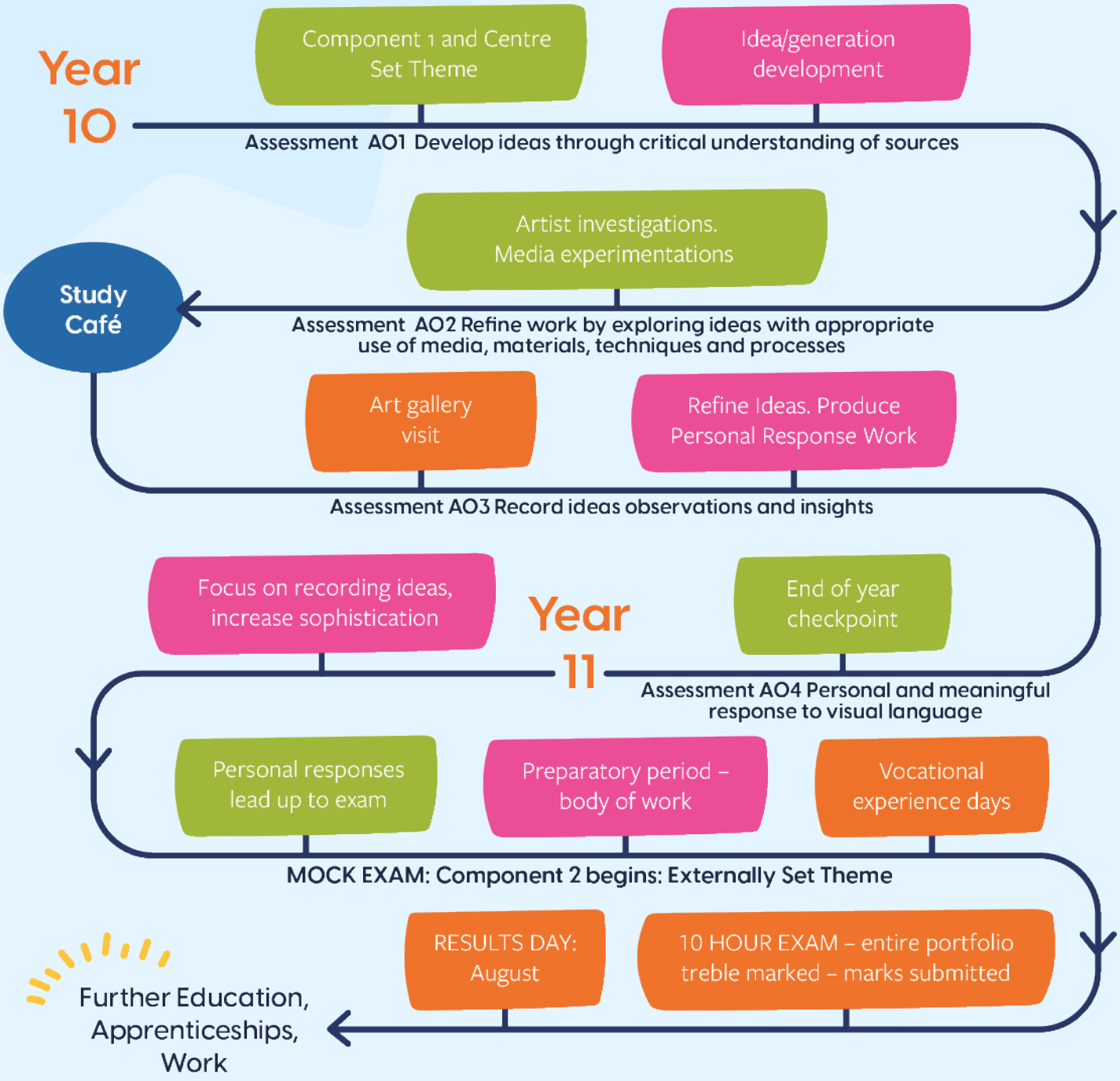
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GCSE Art and Design

Art and Design is a powerful subject for students interested in creative industries such as advertising, architecture, fashion, film, photography, and graphic design. It encourages you to think creatively, express yourself visually, and develop a wide range of transferable skills that are valuable in both artistic and non-artistic careers.

This course is ideal for anyone who enjoys exploring ideas, experimenting with materials, and developing their own artistic voice.

Course roadmap:



Where can Art and Design take you?

GCSE Art and Design can lead to a wide range of further study and career opportunities,

Possible future pathways include:

- A-levels in Fine Art, Photography, or Textiles
- BTEC Level 3 in Art and Design or Creative Media
- University degrees in areas such as Fashion, Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration, Architecture, Games Design, and Film Production

Possible career pathways include:

- Graphic Designer
- Product Designer
- Film Set Designer
- Illustrator
- Fashion Designer
- Photographer

Art is not just a subject - it's a way of seeing and shaping the world.

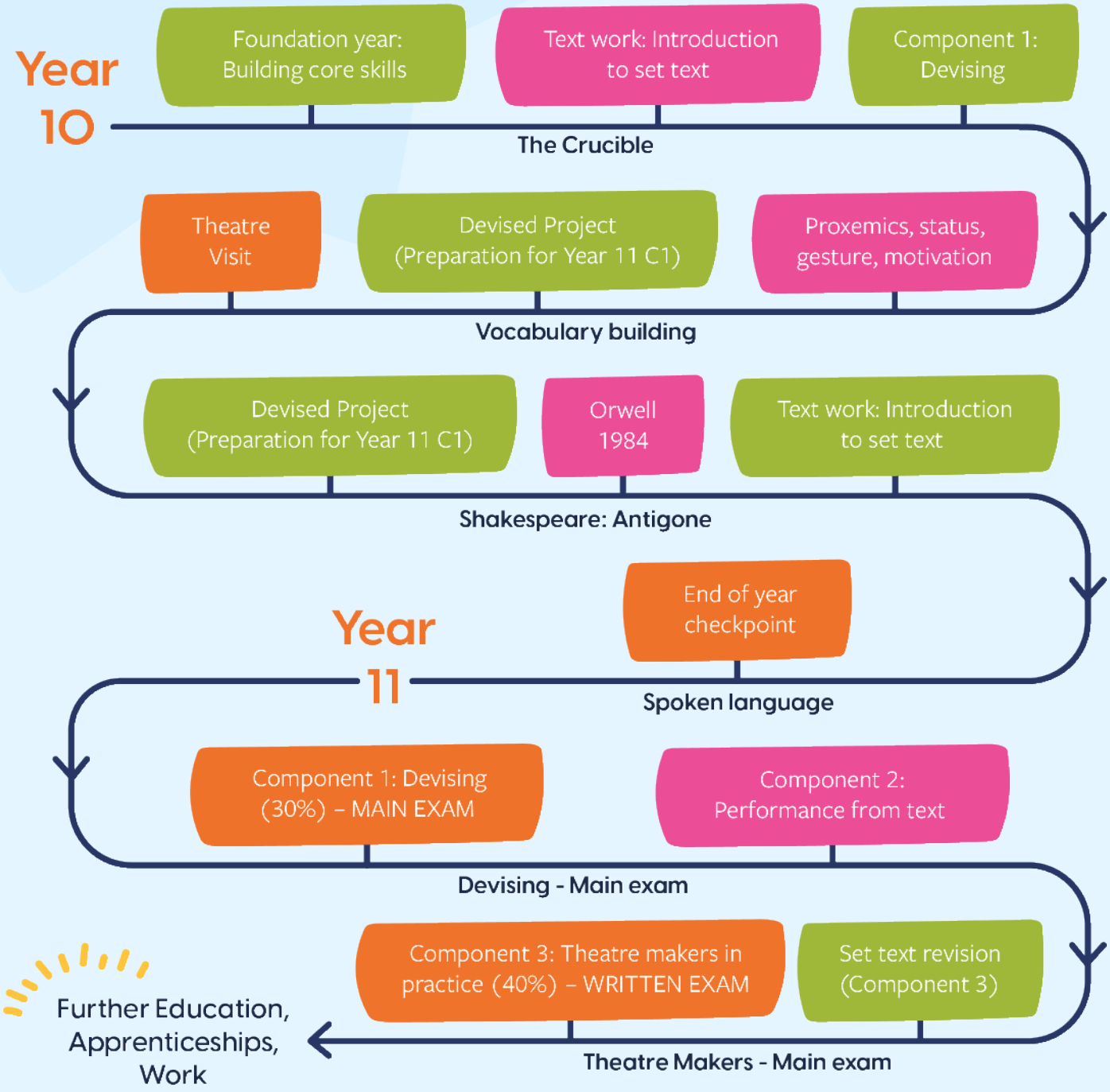
Notes

GCSE Drama

GCSE Drama is a dynamic and creative course that helps you develop essential life skills - on and off the stage. Through performance, script work, and group collaboration, you'll build confidence, improve communication, and learn how to work effectively as part of a team.

Whether you're aiming for a career in the arts or simply want to grow as a confident communicator, Drama offers a rich and rewarding experience.

Course roadmap:



Where can Drama take you?

GCSE Drama can lead to a wide range of further study and career opportunities. Drama encourages empathy and emotional intelligence by exploring different perspectives and human experiences.

Possible future pathways include:

- A-level Drama and Theatre Studies
- BTEC Performing Arts
- Drama School or Theatre Training
- University courses in Performing Arts, Media, or Communication

Possible career pathways include:

- Acting and Directing
- Stage Management and Technical Theatre
- Media and Broadcasting
- Teaching and Education
- Law, Public Relations, and Event Planning

Even if you don't pursue drama professionally, the skills you gain - confidence, creativity, communication, and collaboration - are valuable in any career.

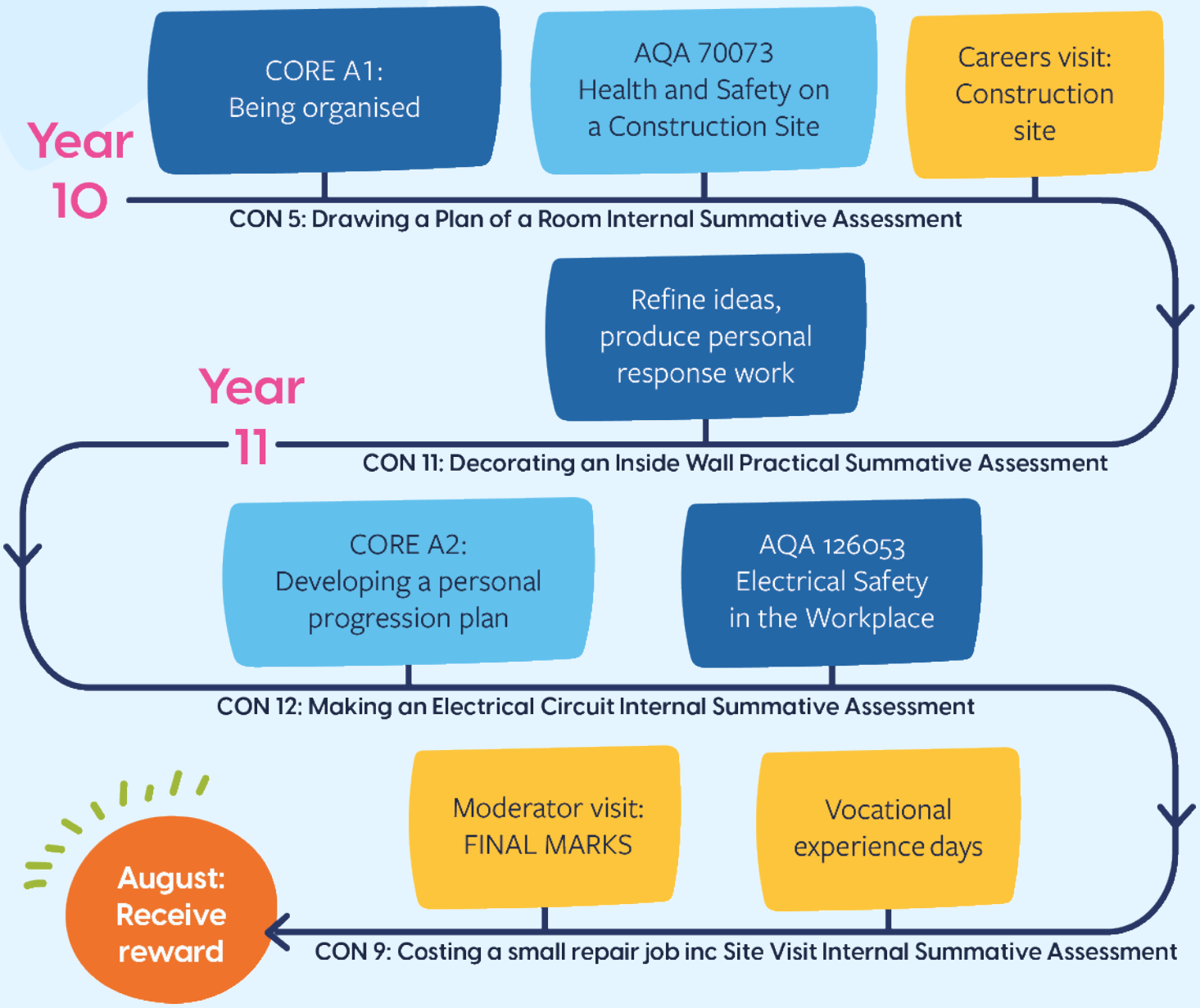
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BTEC Construction

Students will develop basic construction skills through real projects such as drawing plans, decorating an interior wall, making an electrical circuit and costing a small repair job, including a site visit. Health and safety are a key focus, with units on electrical safety and working safely on a construction site. Learning is mainly coursework and practical-based, helping students build confidence, independence and employability skills.

This construction pathway offers a practical, hands-on introduction to the construction industry and is ideal for students who enjoy making, building and problem-solving.

Course roadmap:



Where can Construction take you?

This course provides a strong foundation for further study or training in construction and related trades. The practical skills and safety knowledge gained are highly valued by employers.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 2 or Level 3 Construction qualifications at college
- Construction apprenticeships or trainee roles within the industry

Possible career pathways include:

- Electrician
- Decorator
- Carpenter
- Plumber
- Site worker
- Roles in building maintenance and construction management

The course also develops transferable skills such as teamwork, organisation, problem-solving and safe working practices, supporting a wide range of future career options.

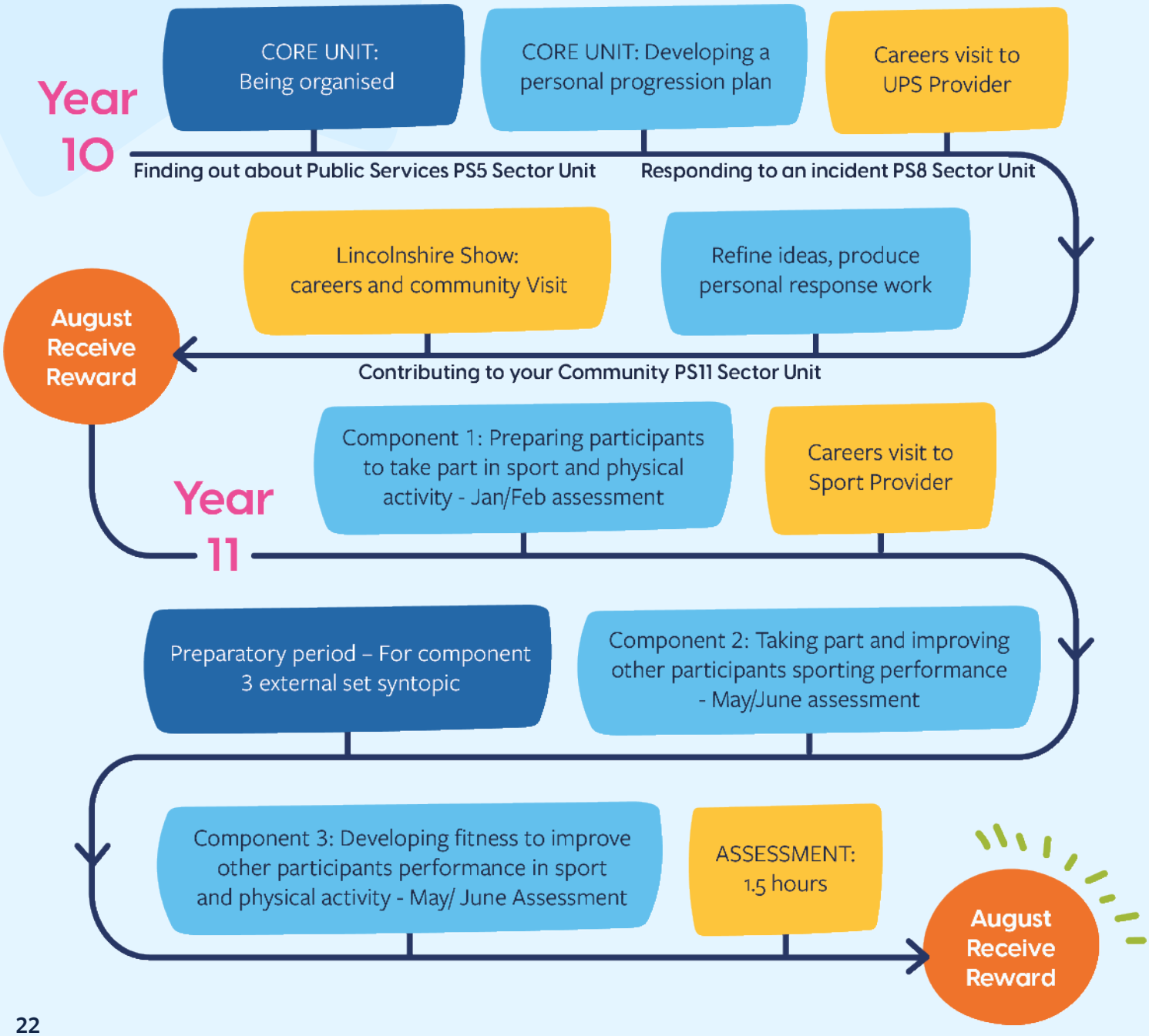
Notes

BTEC Sports and UPS

This pathway offers two practical, vocational BTEC certificates studied over two years. In Year 10, students complete the Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Public Services, focusing on teamwork, leadership, responding to incidents and contributing to the community. In Year 11, students progress to the BTEC Tech Award in Sport, developing skills in coaching, participation, performance improvement and fitness. Learning is active and hands-on, combining practical activities with coursework and externally assessed components.

This pathway is ideal for students who enjoy physical activity, applied learning and preparing for real-world careers.

Course roadmap:



Where can Sports and UPS take you?

Together, these qualifications provide strong preparation for further education, apprenticeships and employment. The skills developed - teamwork, leadership, communication, resilience and problem-solving - are highly valued by employers.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 2 or Level 3 courses in Public Services, Sport, Fitness, Uniformed Services or related vocational areas at college

Possible career pathways include:

- Police, fire service or armed forces
- Sports coaching
- Fitness instruction
- Leisure services
- Community and public sector roles

This pathway also builds confidence, discipline and employability for a wide range of future opportunities

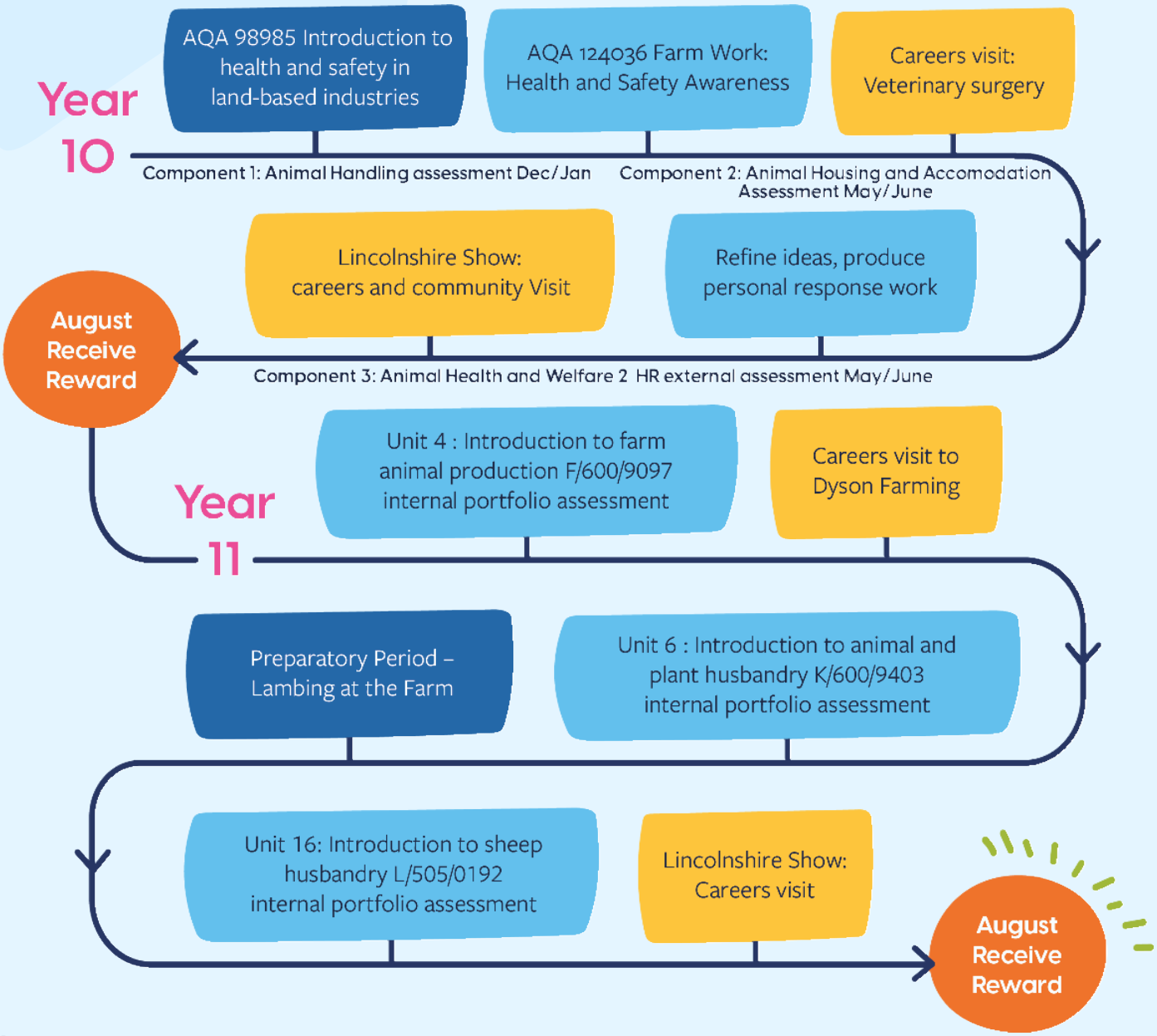
Notes

BTEC Animal Care and Agriculture

This pathway offers two linked vocational qualifications focused on animals and land-based industries. In Year 10, students study the BTEC Tech Award in Animal Care, covering animal handling, housing and accommodation, and animal health and welfare, alongside essential health and safety knowledge. In Year 11, students progress to the Level 2 Certificate in Agriculture, completing units such as Introduction to Farm Animal Production and Introduction to Animal and Plant Husbandry.

Assessment is mainly coursework through portfolio tasks, with some external assessment, and learning is practical, hands-on and linked to real working environments.

Course roadmap:



Where can Animal Care and Agriculture take you?

Together, these qualifications provide excellent preparation for further study and careers in animal care and agriculture.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 3 courses in Animal Management, Agriculture, Equine Studies or other land-based subjects at college
- Apprenticeships in roles such as farm worker

Possible career pathways include:

- Farm worker
- Animal care assistant
- Livestock assistant
- Kennel or cattery worker
- Veterinary care support

Students develop valued skills including responsibility, teamwork, animal welfare awareness and safe working practices, which are essential across animal, agricultural and environmental industries.

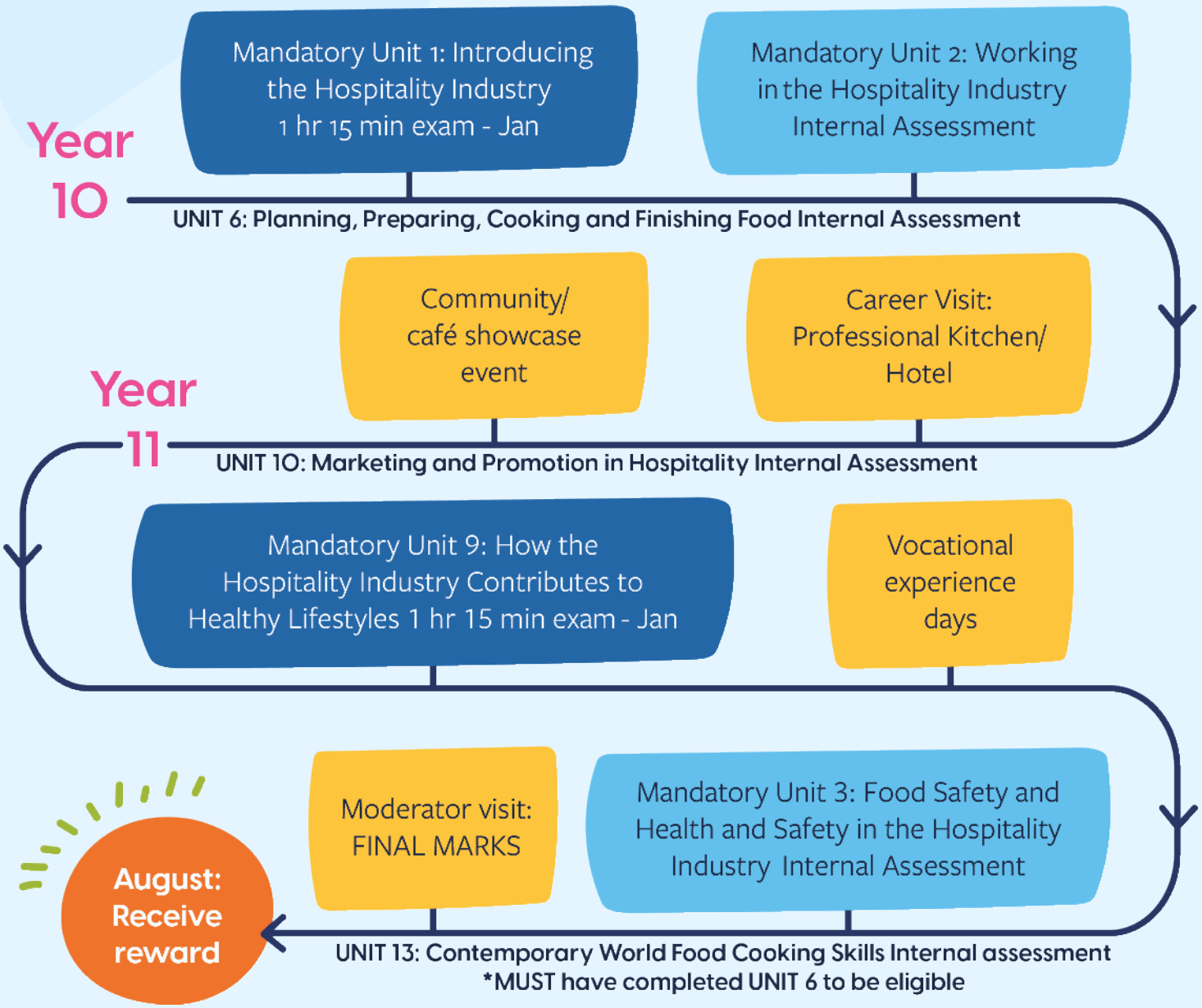
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BTEC Hospitality

Students study a range of units that explore how the industry works, including Introducing the Hospitality Industry and Working in the Hospitality Industry. Practical skills are developed through units such as Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food and Contemporary World Food Cooking Skills. Students also learn about food safety, health and safety, marketing and healthy lifestyles. Assessment is through a mixture of internal coursework and short external exams in January, allowing learners to demonstrate both knowledge and practical ability.

This hospitality pathway provides a practical and engaging introduction to the hospitality and catering industry.

Course roadmap:



Where can Hospitality take you?

This course prepares students well for further education, apprenticeships and employment within the hospitality and catering industry.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 2 or Level 3 Hospitality and Catering, Professional Cookery or Food and Beverage Service courses at college
- Hospitality apprenticeships

Possible career pathways include:

- Restaurant staff
- Hotel staff
- Catering
- Food services

The qualification develops valuable skills such as teamwork, time management, customer service, food hygiene and organisation, which are transferable to many careers both within hospitality and across other employment sectors.

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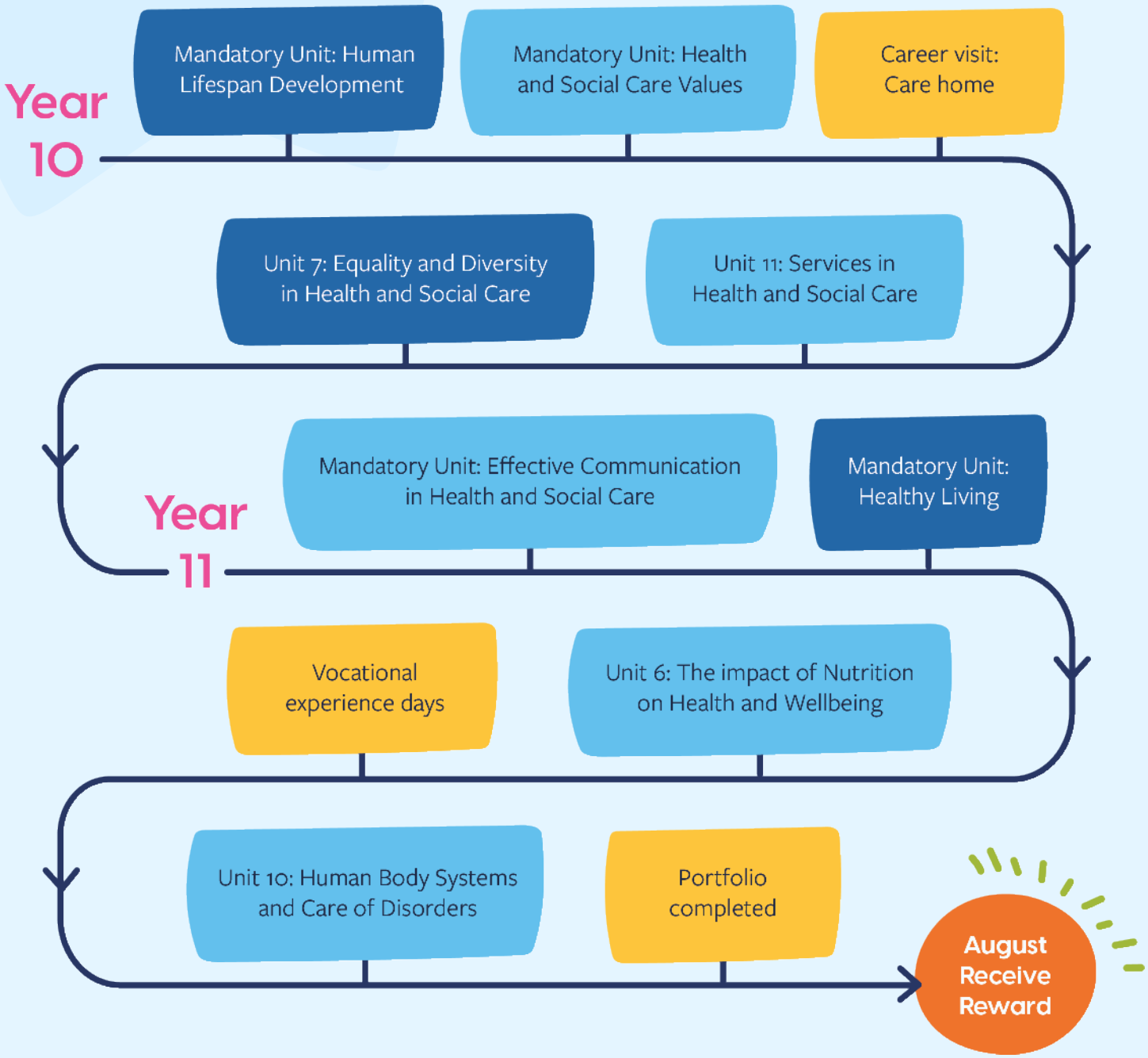
Options

BTEC Health and Social Care

This vocational course blends practical learning with theoretical knowledge, giving you insight into how care is provided across different stages of life and in a variety of settings.You'll develop essential skills such as communication, empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving, all of which are highly valued in health, social care, and early years professions. With a focus on real-world application and continuous assessment, this course supports a wide range of learning styles and prepares you for both further education and the workplace.

If you're interested in helping others and making a positive difference in people's lives, BTEC Health and Social Care is a fantastic choice.

Course roadmap:



Where can Health and Social Care take you?

BTEC Health and Social Care can lead to a wide range of further study and career opportunities.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 3 BTEC qualifications in Health and Social Care
- A-levels in related subjects
- Apprenticeships in childcare, nursing, or social care
- University courses in nursing, midwifery, social work, or early years education

Possible career pathways include:

- Nursing and healthcare
- Social work and community support
- Childcare and early years education
- Counselling and mental health services

With a focus on real-world application and continuous assessment, this course supports a wide range of learning styles and prepares you for both further education and the workplace.

Notes

BTEC Digital Media

The BTEC Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Digital Media is a practical and creative course for students who are interested in digital content, media and technology. The course explores how digital media products are created, such as images, videos, audio and online content. Students learn through hands-on tasks and coursework, developing skills in planning, creating and reviewing digital media products. The course encourages creativity, teamwork and problem-solving while building confidence in using digital tools and software.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy creative learning and want a vocational alternative to traditional classroom subjects.

Course roadmap:



Where can Digital Media take you?

This qualification provides a strong foundation for further study and career pathways in digital media and related subjects.

Possible future pathways include:

- Level 2 or Level 3 courses in Digital Media, Creative Media, IT, Film, Photography or Graphic Design
- Apprenticeships in Media, Marketing, Content Creation

Possible career pathways include:

- Marketing
- Content Creation
- Graphic Design
- Digital industries

The skills developed - creativity, communication, organisation and digital confidence - are highly valued by colleges and employers and are transferable to many careers in creative, technical and business sectors.

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Option choices

To be returned to school as soon as possible.

Student's name:

All students will study the following:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

In addition, please label your optional course choices with 1st, 2nd and 3rd from the following:

- Art and Design
- Drama
- Construction
- Sports and UPS
- Animal Care and Agriculture
- Hospitality
- Health and Social Care
- Digital Media





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