

PiXL  
FUTURES



Vocational  
Courses

# Why study a Vocational course?

Vocational courses are designed to help you learn in a practical way about a specific job area. They can help you get the skills you need to start a job, progress in a career or go on to higher education. In addition to this:

- They are recognised by the Government as a direct equivalent to GCSEs
- They count for entry requirements to sixth forms and colleges
- They provide an opportunity to build practical skills as well as traditional classroom learning



## What are the common misconceptions about Vocational qualifications?

### Myth 1: Vocational qualifications are just for trades

Not true, there are courses in horticulture, web development, business, animal care and digital interactive games to name a few. As you may know, apprenticeships are available to learn a trade like carpentry or welding. But there are also traineeships — these are Vocational qualifications too. You can do things like graphic design, business administration or tourism. There are so many options!



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**Myth 2: Studying a Vocational course will not gain you any credit for sixth form or college**

Vocational subjects are full integrated into the school curriculum and viewed by the Government as a direct equivalent to GCSEs. They do give you credit when moving to sixth form or college.



### **Myth 3: Vocational subjects are for lower achieving students**

Again completely untrue. Most Vocational qualifications now have a consistent blend of academic and vocational skills that are assessed. Success in these subjects is viewed just as highly as GCSEs. Some schools even insist on their students taking a Vocational qualification alongside their GCSE options.

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## So what can you do with them?

Vocational qualifications are designed to lead to a **job, an area of employment** and/or **further study**. They can be an attractive option to help prepare you for the world of work and a particular job or employment sector.

Vocational qualifications and apprenticeships are being developed across most professions, for example; science, law, finance, media and IT.

Vocational qualifications can help you prepare for a very specific job, or give you a broad overview of an employment sector.

**VOCATIONAL SKILLS**  
in High Demand Today

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Trucking
- Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing
- Veterinary Technology
- Food Services
- Computer Support
- Dental Care
- Hair Styling and Cosmetology
- Auto Servicing



## How do they keep your options open?

Most importantly, Vocational qualifications keep your options open for many things:

1. Further study



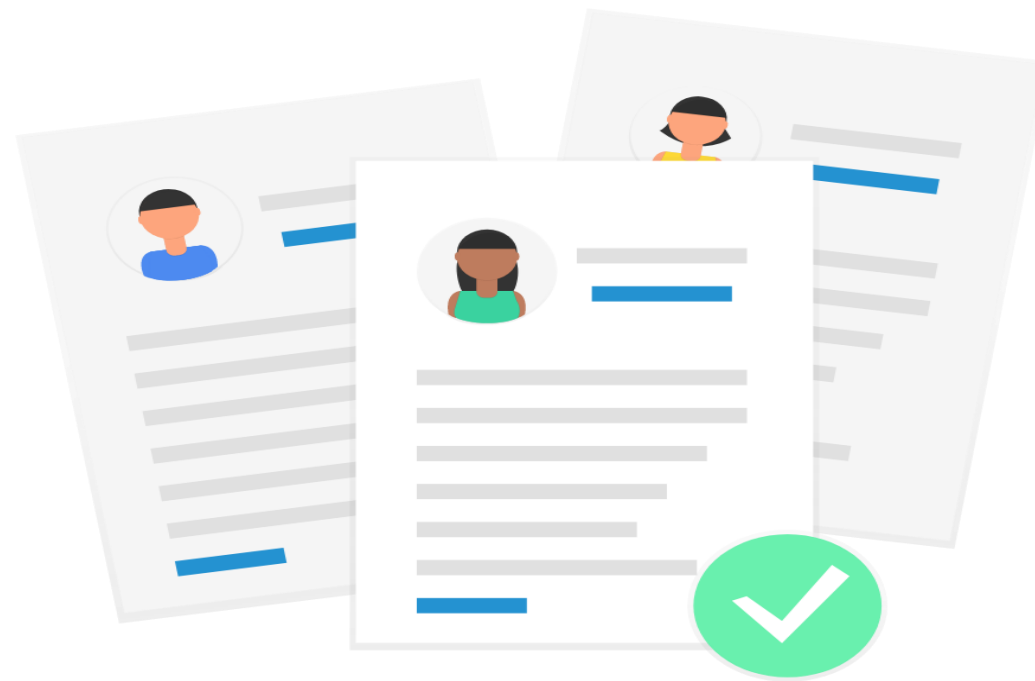
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After my BTEC, I went and did a degree that I absolutely loved and I feel like BTEC had given me all the tools. It was almost like a bridge between school and university.

**Sharmadean Reid MBE**  
Entrepreneur and  
Founder of WAH Nails  
BTEC Art and Design

## 2. Entering the workplace or apprenticeships

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# How do Vocational qualifications deliver character and culture?



Because of their format, Vocational courses build character and embed a culture of self-discipline through developing time management skills. The heavily weighted coursework element of the qualifications encourage huge independence skills (vital for higher education or the world of work), whilst also encouraging a thirst for knowledge and the development of research skills, requiring students to independently find and assimilate research they have found.



The externally assessed components of the course teach students the value of revision and understanding key concepts, skills that both higher education and employers hold in high regard.



This is just the start, but what is clear is that Vocational courses give students the skills they require to cope effectively with working in the modern world and for their future careers.

# Where to now?

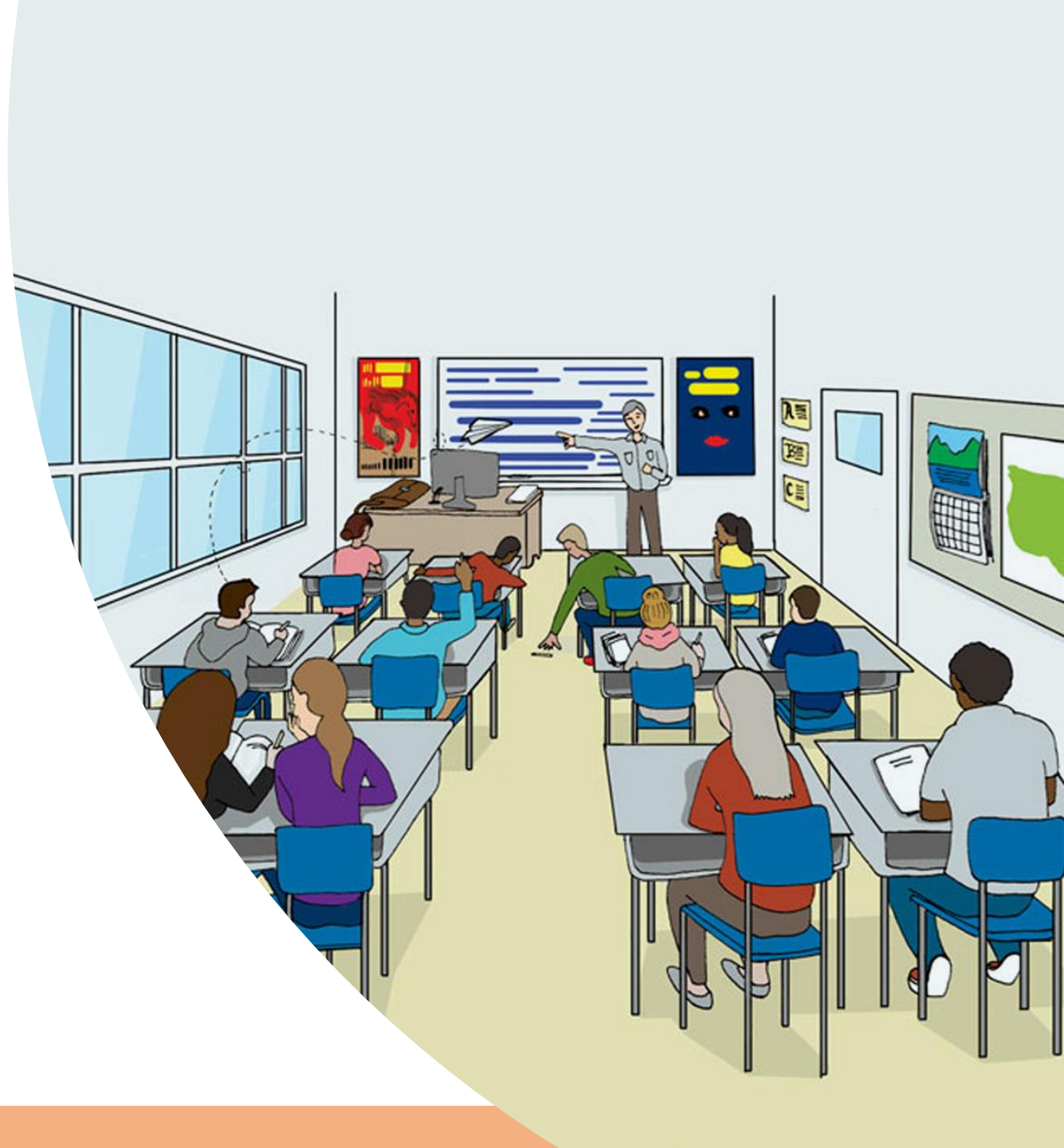
What is important to understand is where Vocational qualifications can take you in the future ... the answer is pretty much anywhere you want to go!

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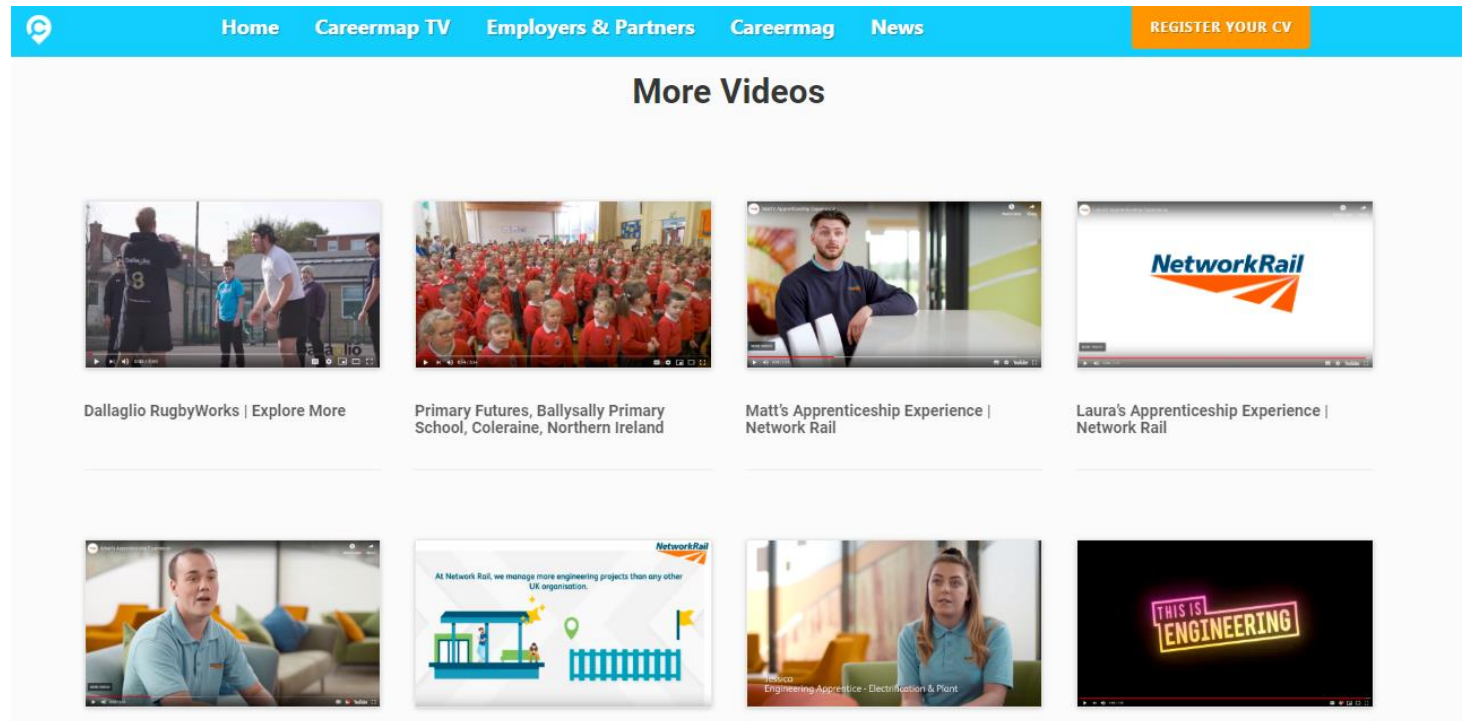
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Remember, Vocational qualifications are recognised equivalents to GCSEs and will directly contribute to your entry requirements to apprenticeships, sixth form or college applications.











<https://careermap.co.uk/careermap-tv/>

Career Map TV showcases a whole host of successful young students who have channelled their talents into the world of work after studying vocational qualifications at school. Click the link below to see a range of videos from engineering, business, health and social care, accounting, project management and more .....



The screenshot shows the Career Map TV website interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with a home icon, links for Home, Careermap TV, Employers & Partners, Careermag, and News, and a yellow button labeled 'REGISTER YOUR CV'. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'More Videos' which displays a grid of eight video thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a video player and a caption below it.

Thumbnail 1	Thumbnail 2	Thumbnail 3	Thumbnail 4
			
Dallaglio RugbyWorks   Explore More	Primary Futures, Ballysally Primary School, Coleraine, Northern Ireland	Matt's Apprenticeship Experience   Network Rail	Laura's Apprenticeship Experience   Network Rail
			

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