

LEARNER NEWSLETTER

June 2024

KEEP SCROLLING FOR HOT TOPICS TO CHAT THROUGH WITH YOUR TUTOR!

WHY MATHS AND ENGLISH?

English and maths are directly required as part of all apprenticeship programmes. Alongside the diploma, the objective of English and maths is to help upskill people nationally.

They are called functional skills because by objective English and maths are required everyday of our lives, in all aspects of our lives.

If you already have English and/or maths you may be exempt but will still be supported throughout your programme.

If you don't have these qualifications, you will be supported through to successful achievement.

You will remember completing your initial and diagnostic assessment at the beginning of your programme. You will have done this online, on BKSb. These assessments are the start of your journey and will identify skills gaps for you to work on.



Here is the link where you can log back in:

[Login - bksbLIVE \(bksblive2.co.uk\)](https://bksblive2.co.uk)

During the first few meetings with your tutor, you will both review your BKSb assessments to agree a plan of action. You will then receive tutorials and training from your tutor, using BKSb and other resources.

However, in between sessions you will be expected to utilise BKSb to support your development.

At a time when you both feel you are ready you will start to complete some 'mock' assessments (paper and online) to prepare you for your online assessments.

If you require maths, you have a 2-hour online assessment. The first 30 minutes is non-calculator. The rest, you can use a calculator.

For English you will have online assessments in:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

Mock tests will help prepare you, but your tutor will be there throughout the whole process.

As you take your assessments its essential you are invigilated and follow assessment rules and regulations. For example, you should sit your assessments in a bright airy room, with access to the internet. You should not have your phone or other screens/devices active. You should not plagiarise or use AI.

Like taking any assessments, its all in the preparation so here is some more guidance.

[Top Tips for FS English Reading and Writing Assessments.pdf](#)

Your tutor will also ensure you are fully prepared to navigate these online tests. These are completed on a portal within your computer. The portal and assessment will be fully explained to you.

Successfully working towards passing your assessments will bring satisfaction, but also skills for life. It is additional CPD and demonstrates to your employer, your commitment to learning.

We wish you well on your journey and encourage you to achieve English or maths very early in your programme.

Thanks

Mike and Rick

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INVOLVING EMPLOYERS IN LEARNING!

We just love employer feedback like this.

Here at Achieving Excellence we work hard to recruit high quality tutors, tutors who can engage and inspire students and employers.

Equally, the success of a programme is significantly heightened when employers are directly involved; day to day but also the quarterly learning reviews.

“I’d like to inform that we are very happy with our employee’s tutor ****, we have only heard positive things about him.

Our staff have stated that **** is approachable and always replies to them when they are unaware of anything.

**** has set up meeting with the management team and has got us involved in supporting our team. He is an excellent tutor, who knows what he is doing.”

“I second that.

I attended two meetings with **** and staff in May online, **** conducted himself very well, I was very impressed.

Staff have shared with me all positive feedback about him.

They are very lucky to have such a great tutor.”



EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY – LDBTQ MONTH



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honour the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States and this also changed the Gay Liberation Movement across the world.

In 1969 the Stonewall Inn was a popular gay bar in New York City and at the time it was illegal to serve alcohol to a gay person and homosexuality was considered a criminal offense. During the early hours of the morning police raided the bar and arrested several punters due to their sexuality and that they were cross dressing, as a result of the raid a protest started and continued for a week, this led to the first pride march being held on June 28th 1970. Although in the United States homosexuality was legalised in some states in 1962, it took until 2003 for Texas for decriminalise homosexual relations. And in 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law a new hate crime act.

LGBTQ is celebrated in the UK in June, with the pride march in London being held on 29th June 2024

Within Equality and diversity, it is illegal to discriminate against individuals for the protected characteristics and this includes sexuality, if you feel that you have been discriminated against due to your sexuality at work or during your learning programme please speak to your trainer or the safeguarding team at Achieving Excellence.

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PREVENT – ARMED FORCES DAY, 29/6/24



Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

As of 2023, the United Kingdom's armed forces consists of approximately 142,560 active personnel.

Being in the armed forces often means being posted away from home for long periods of time to protect and serve the United Kingdom and this can have an impact on families of those serving, including children. There are charities such as <https://www.littletroopers.net/> set up to support children whose parents are serving in the armed forces.

We join together on the 29th June to show our support for what our armed forces do and how they protect individuals within the UK, do this in your work place you could hold your own event or join one of the events that are being held across the country <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/>

the Government, local communities and businesses across the UK have committed to supporting Armed Forces personnel past and present by signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant. This includes the Covenant Fund which is available for community projects and supporting serving personnel and their families as well as veterans and personnel who have been injured in the act of duty by providing ongoing support for them to be able to continue living independently if possible and obtaining the support needed.

BRITISH VALUES – RESPECT!!

British values underpin everything that we do in practice and one of the topics that British Values covered is mutual respect and tolerance.

This means understanding that we all don't share the same beliefs and values. Respecting the values, ideas, and beliefs of others whilst not imposing our own on others. Examples are:

- * Embracing diversity
- * Promoting awareness of religion, traditions, cultural heritage, and preferences
- * Tackling stereotyping, labelling, prejudice and discrimination

To do this in practice we can educate others as to what respect means in the workplace, ensure that policies are in place to promote and maintain respect.

What can you do?

Does your workplace embrace a diverse workforce?
What are the benefits of a diverse work force?

How do you celebrate your colleagues religions?

What would you do if there was any instances of discrimination within your workplace?



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SAFEGUARDING – SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF TORTURE, 26/6/24

The UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June marks the moment in 1987 when the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, one of the key instruments in fighting torture, came into effect.

"[T]he term 'torture' means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions." — Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984, art. 1, para.1)

Unfortunately, in the world many people are still subjected to torture and the International Day of Support is to help those who have been victims of torture and raise awareness of what torture is and how this is illegal within the United Nations.

Educate and train staff and others about torture, what it is and the impact of torture on individuals.

What to do if you suspect someone is being tortured?

As torture is illegal you can report any concerns to the police on 999, and as always, our safeguarding team are here to help if you have any concerns.

Additional information:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/torture/>

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING – HEALTHY EATING WEEK, 10TH – 14TH JUNE 2024

'The Health Survey for England 2019 estimates that 28.0% of adults in England are obese and a further 36.2% are overweight but not obese. Obesity is usually defined as having a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above. BMI between 25 and 30 is classified as 'overweight'.'

This can lead to long term health implications, a shorter life expectancy and an unhealthy lifestyle.

Perhaps more worryingly, 14.4% of reception age children (age 4-5) are obese, with a further 13.3% overweight. At age 10-11 (year 6), 25.5% are obese and 15.4% overweight. National Child Measurement Programme.

Healthy Eating Week – Give it a go!

This year's theme is 'give it a go', this is about encouraging everyone to give something a go towards healthy eating, this could be eating an extra portion of fruit or vegetables, being more active, experimenting with a new recipe or using up left overs.

This year so focuses on providing schools and workplaces information on the following themes:

- Having 5 a day
- Staying hydrated
- Moving more
- Focus on fibre
- Reduce food waste.

What can you do to help healthy eating in your workplace?

Do you offer a variety of healthy foods at lunch time if meals are available on site? If you have vending machines at work, do they have healthy alternatives?

If you work with children, do you promote healthy eating to both the child and their parents?

Additional information:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/>

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn03336/>

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthy-eating-week/>