

English and Maths Support at University of Derby – Buxton

At University of Derby – Buxton, we are committed to helping students grow, overcome challenges, and succeed in English and Maths. These essential subjects empower learners to take their next steps - whether in education, employment, or everyday life.

Why Study English and Maths?

Achieving qualifications in English and Maths opens doors to:

- Further education and apprenticeships
- Better job opportunities
- Improved life skills like budgeting, communication, and understanding personal data

These subjects are the foundation for future success in all vocational and academic areas and future employment.

Our Mission

We aim to provide a **friendly, professional, and accessible learning experience**. Our dedicated English and Maths team offers tailored support for all levels and abilities, including students with additional learning needs.

We offer:

- **Pre-Entry level, Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 Functional Skills**
- **GCSE English and Maths**

Our Strategy

We support all students, including adults and apprentices, in developing strong English and Maths skills. Our goal is for every student to achieve a Level 2 qualification (GCSE grade 4 or above, or Functional Skills Level 2) by age 19, in line with Study Programme and 16-18 year old Apprenticeship requirements.

For adult students (19+), including adult apprentices, studying English and Maths is optional. However, we strongly encourage those who have not yet achieved a GCSE grade 4 (or equivalent) to take up the opportunity to improve their skills and gain a recognised qualification.

Continued Development for GCSE Grade 4+ Students

Students who have already achieved a grade 4 or higher in English and/or Maths will continue to develop their skills through **vocational lessons and enrichment opportunities**. These sessions help build:

- Communication and literacy skills
- Numeracy and problem-solving abilities
- Study habits and life skills essential for future success

Learning and Achievement

We will:

- Deliver high-quality, engaging lessons that promote progress and achievement
- Provide tailored support for students with additional learning needs and Education, Health and Care Plans

- Offer smaller class sizes for Entry Level programmes
- Use digital platforms to personalise learning based on individual gaps
- Prepare students with mock exams and past papers to build exam confidence
- Offer additional revision sessions throughout the year, especially in the lead-up to exams, to help students feel confident and well-prepared

Assessment and Feedback

Tutors will:

- Use assessments that reflect real exam formats
- Provide regular feedback and support
- Understand each student's starting point to tailor learning
- Conduct mock GCSE exams in February, with final exams in May/June
- Offer Functional Skills exams throughout the year, with multiple opportunities for resits

Note: *November GCSE resits are available for returning learners only and dependent on previous grade. New learners should contact their previous school for resit arrangements.*

Attendance and Engagement

Attendance is mandatory for all timetabled sessions of English and Maths:

- Study Programme: two lessons per week of 1.5 hours; total 3 hours for each subject
- Apprenticeships: one lesson per week of 3 hours for each subject
- Adult (evening classes): one lesson per week of 2 hours for each subject

There will also be **mandatory revision workshops** planned throughout the year.

If you are unable to attend due to illness or other valid reasons, please inform the college as soon as possible.

We are Here to Support You

Whether you're returning to study or facing challenges, we understand that learning can feel overwhelming. Our team is here to guide and support you every step of the way.

Let's make this journey together!