



MATHS & ENGLISH POLICY

Updated September 2021
Approved by the Principal

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Big Creative Academy will provide the highest quality learning opportunities to all our students in order to enhance their future prospects.
- 1.2 It is recognised that English and maths are essential skills which students will require to succeed on their main curriculum, to progress in the workplace and to operate effectively in everyday life.
- 1.3 Improving English and maths skills form part of the Academy's commitment to widening participation and increasing opportunities for its students.
- 1.4 Students who are under 19 and do not have GCSE grade 9-4 in English and/or maths will be required, as part of their study programme, to pursue a course which either leads directly to these qualifications or which provides significant progress towards future GCSE success. Those students who already have GCSE grade 9-4 in English and maths will have English and maths embedded in their main programme of study to support them to continue to improve these skills.
- 1.5 All teaching staff are responsible for contributing to the development of students' English and maths skills, which should be promoted consistently throughout all areas of the curriculum, in particular through delivery of the mainstream curriculum and assessment of students' work. Tutors and Course Leads are responsible for monitoring the progress of their students in English and maths.
- 1.6 This policy will be consistent and complementary to all other Academy policies. It covers the English and maths curriculum, including GCSEs, Functional Skills, adult literacy and numeracy and ESOL qualifications.

2. Principles

- 2.1 Big Creative Academy makes the following commitments to:
 - assess students at interview for English and maths in order to ensure that they are enrolled onto the course that best meets their needs.
 - build on English and maths skills and knowledge of students in order for them to succeed at GCSE maths and English as a minimum.
 - provide a range of relevant qualifications at different levels to meet student needs.

- encourage speaking, reading, writing and listening to promote the improvement of English skills.
- provide opportunities for students to acquire the numerical skills that they will require, including developing an understanding of the practical ways that maths can be applied to everyday contexts.
- provide teaching and learning that is challenging, motivating and responsive to individual needs.
- assess learners' work in ways that will support the acquisition and development of English and maths skills.
- regularly review progress and setting challenging targets for English and maths, in consultation with the individual student.
- assess for learning support needs and providing support if required in consultation with the student.
- provide students with advice and guidance for progression in their English and maths learning.
- recognise and taking account of government policy and research, including local initiatives and the requirements of study programmes.

3. Operations

- 3.1 The Academy will make specific reference to the development of English and maths skills as part of their study programme at student interviews, including initial assessments.
- 3.2 Teaching and learning observations will specifically focus on the quality of English and maths sessions.
- 3.3 Students will be made aware of their responsibilities in relation to English and maths, including attendance, commitment and engagement.
- 3.4 The Academy will work in partnership with colleagues from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to pursue relevant national, regional and local initiatives.
- 3.5 The Academy will actively seek the views, needs and aspirations of potential and current students.
- 3.6 The Academy will build progression opportunities for students which require them to work towards the achievement of GCSEs in maths and English (grades 9-4):
 - 3.6.1 Students who have achieved grade 3 in GCSE Mathematics and/or English will usually be required to re-take the qualification within one year
 - 3.6.2 Students who have achieved grades 1-2 in GCSE Mathematics and/or English will usually be required to re-take the qualification within two years
 - 3.6.3 Students who are not yet at this level will be required to study a qualification at an appropriate level to provide progression to GCSE study
 - 3.6.4 Students who have already achieved GCSEs in English and mathematics at grade 4 or above will undertake extension work to build on their existing knowledge and skills.
 - 3.6.5 Students with learning Difficulties and/or Difficulties (LLDD) will be excluded from these requirements where appropriate. However, all students with LLDD who do not hold a GCSE grade 9-4 in English and/or maths will

work towards qualifications at some level in these subjects, where it is appropriate, and students with LLDD who are capable of taking and achieving these qualifications will be required to do so.

- 3.7 The Academy regularly monitors and reviews the Academy's English and maths scores and how they compare with national figures.
- 3.8 Continuing professional development will be provided to support the improvement of English and maths skills for staff in order to develop lecturers' professional knowledge and skills and their capacity for improving these skills in their students.
- 3.9 English and maths qualifications at level 2 are required as a minimum in the person specifications for staff appointments in order to ensure the sufficiency of expertise in English and maths teaching.