

### **What is Professional Pathways?**

For students who wish to access higher level study or employment through a route other than A-level, Professional Pathway could be the route for you.

Professional Pathways is an innovative programme of study offered at Sixth Forms across the Ark network designed in close collaboration with partners from the commercial and public sector. Those on this pathway will study towards the BTEC Extended Diploma, worth 3 A-levels, in a programme that integrates academic study with extensive work experience opportunities, work readiness and career mentoring programmes.

### **Why Study this Programme?**

- You will study a Level 3 qualification in Business that is equivalent to three A Levels, and holds the same number of UCAS points.
- You will work with employers to develop key skills: visiting their offices, meeting their employees, and accessing work experience opportunities.
- You will receive career mentoring to help you make a real and informed choice about what to do when you leave school. Your qualification will allow you to apply to top universities, competitive school leaver programmes, and apprenticeships with respected companies.
- You will attend termly conferences with students from across the Ark network, providing opportunities to build new networks with both peers and employers.

### **How is the Course Assessed?**

The majority of the course is assessed through coursework assessments that are completed throughout the course. In addition, you will complete one controlled assessment and one exam at the end of each year. These will make up approximately 20% of your final grade.

### **Who is this Programme Suitable for?**

Students who prefer practical learning and coursework over theoretical content and exams, as well as those who are keen to develop their employability skills and employer networks.

## **Business**

### **What will I study?**

You will develop practical skills and a theoretical understanding of the world of business. You will look in depth at finance, marketing, human resource management and e-business and will have opportunities to devise your own business plans and run your own business activities and events.

### **Progression Options**

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Business, Accounting and Finance, Business Management or to a combine work and study through a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship in Business or Finance.

## **Applied Science**

### **What will I study?**

The topics explored on the Applied Science course include, in biology, microbiology, disease, and human physiology. Units based around infection, biomedical science and forensic analysis are just a few examples of how this course allows pupils to see how science is used on a practical level. Students will also have the opportunity to pursue their own scientific interests through an investigative project.

### **Progression Options**

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study Science, Healthcare, or Applied Science, or to a combine work and study through a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship in Science or Technology.

Students who choose not to continue on a Science pathway can also access university and apprenticeships in Business, Finance and other areas.

## **IT**

### **What will I study?**

The course covers a wide range of topics for those who have a specific career pathway in IT already mapped out as well as those who are not sure which specialism to follow. The main elements of the course cover hardware, networking, programming, graphics and web development.

### **Progression Options**

You can choose to progress to either Higher Education to study IT, Business, or Media, or to a combine work and study through a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship in IT or Project Management.