



# Digital Membership Prospectus 2026-2027

Join a global network building the essential skills for success



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[Join the Skills Builder Partnership here](#)

## Essential skills: The golden thread in a changing landscape

The Further Education landscape is evolving rapidly. From adapting to changing regional labour market demands to meeting rigorous inclusion and enrichment standards, colleges are under immense pressure to deliver ready-to-work individuals who excel beyond technical qualifications alone.

In this climate, essential skills - like listening, speaking, problem solving, and teamwork - are not an 'add-on'. They are the golden thread that ties your entire provision together.

### Future-proof your institution

Digital Membership gives you the rigorous, measurable framework needed to navigate these shifts with confidence:

- **Boost employability & workplace readiness:** Ensure students possess the highly transferable 'human skills' that modern employers explicitly demand, helping them secure industry placements and competitive apprenticeships.
- **Achieve strategic & statutory goals:** Seamlessly meet statutory careers guidance and achieve the Gatsby Benchmarks by embedding a structured framework directly into tutorial systems, vocational and academic pathways.
- **Drive inclusion & lower NEET rates:** Provide a clear, accessible language that empowers learners from all backgrounds to confidently articulate their strengths, lowering NEET rates and closing the disadvantage gap as they transition into adulthood.

# Why partner with Skills Builder?

## One day, everyone will build the essential skills to succeed

### The Challenge

**92% of teachers believe explicitly teaching essential skills is vital**, but common barriers - such as a lack of time, training, and resources - frequently stand in the way of structured delivery.

### Our Approach

Learners in established Skills Builder programmes make up to  
**3.3x**  
more progress than their peers

| A clear, measurable framework                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ready-to-use resources                                                                                                                                              | Rigorous assessment tools                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Strategic & statutory alignment                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Connection to a global network                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Historically, 'soft skills' have been difficult to teach because they lacked consistent definitions. The Universal Framework breaks each skill down into 16 measurable, sequential steps, <b>providing a common language for your entire institution.</b> | We equip your staff with a <b>complete library of short lessons</b> , projects, and Challenge Days that engage students <b>without increasing teacher workload.</b> | Access <b>formative group-level tracking</b> tools for teachers (Hub) and <b>independent self-assessment</b> features (Benchmark) for older students. Learners in established Skills Builder programmes make up to <b>3.3x more progress</b> than their peers. | Embedding the framework effortlessly supports wider institutional goals, including <b>statutory careers guidance</b> , the <b>Gatsby Benchmarks</b> , and <b>inspection criteria</b> for <b>Personal Development, skills (FE) and character building.</b> | Join a partnership of over 900 organisations. Your students will learn the <b>exact skills and professional language demanded and utilised by major global employers</b> (like Amazon, PwC, and Heathrow) for recruitment. |

## What is the Universal Framework?

You don't have to reinvent the wheel. The [Skills Builder Universal Framework](#) is the global standard for developing essential skills. It breaks down 8 essential skills into 16 sequential, teachable, and measurable steps.

 Click on any of the skills icons below to explore the steps of the framework.

## The eight essential skills:



Receiving, retaining and processing information



Transmitting information or ideas



Finding solutions to challenges



Using imagination and generating new ideas



Overcoming challenges and setbacks to achieve goals



Setting goals and designing routes to achieve them



Supporting, encouraging and motivating others to achieve a shared goal



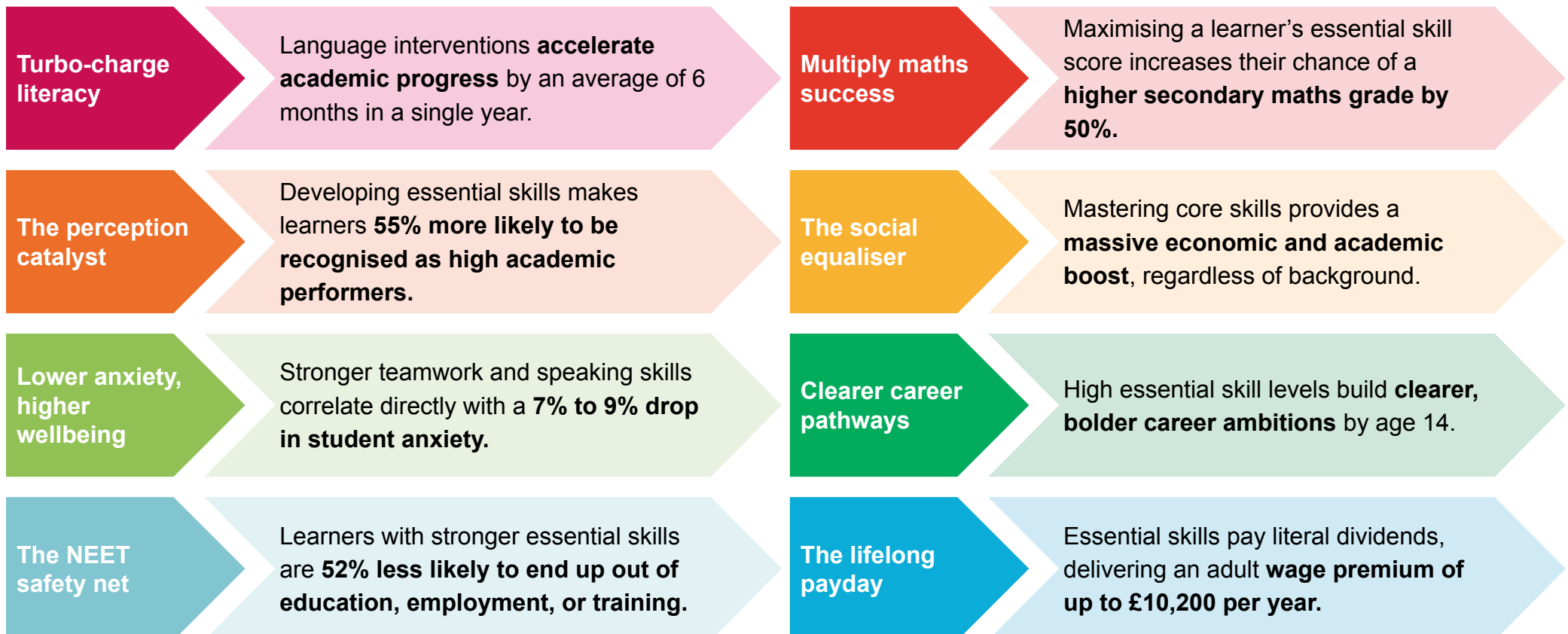
Working cooperatively with others to achieve a shared goal

# Why is this important?

## What are the benefits of developing essential skills?

Research has shown that though these skills are highly valued in employment, many school leavers lack the level of essential skills required to be successful in their careers.

With a rapidly shifting landscape throughout education and employment, these skills are crucial for preparing learners for a future where they can thrive.



# Digital Membership Overview

**Digital Membership is your annual subscription to Skills Builder's online tools and platforms.** With regular skills updates, core teaching resources and our Operation Moonbase Challenge Day included as standard, you'll have access to everything you need to independently kick-start your skills strategy.

## What's included in each tier?

|                                | <b>Skills Builder Digital Membership</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Core<br/>£490</b>                                | <b>Growth<br/>£1,275</b>                            | <b>Impact<br/>£1,800</b>                            | <b>Thrive<br/>£1,995</b>                            |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support &amp; Community</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly skills updates, planning &amp; teaching tips</li> <li>3 Support Calls</li> <li>Event invites</li> <li>Networking opportunities &amp; Communities of Practice</li> </ul>                                                                     | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> |
| <b>Group Assessment</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class-level formative assessment tool</li> <li>Class Admin Dashboards</li> <li>Class level data &amp; progress insights</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>              | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>              | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>              | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>              |
| <b>Teaching Resources</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core teaching Resource Library</li> <li>Exclusive Membership Resources (updated regularly)</li> <li>Operation Moonbase Challenge Day</li> <li>All premium teaching resources</li> </ul>                                                            | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✗</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> |
| <b>Individual Assessment</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Admin Dashboard &amp; unlimited Manager Dashboards</li> <li>Individual learner data &amp; progress insights</li> <li>Learner self-assessment &amp; directed assessment</li> <li>360-degree feedback &amp; digital evidence portfolios</li> </ul> | <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> | <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> <div>✗</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✗</div> | <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> |



## Support & Community

### Weekly skills updates, planning & teaching tips

Regular emails giving you strategic advice, teaching ideas and helping you to keep essential skills at the top of the agenda.

### 3 Support Calls

Optional check-ins with a Skills Builder Education Associate to chat through any technical questions you may have.

### Event invites

Invites to Careers Insight Weeks & our annual Partnership Conference.

### Networking opportunities & Communities of Practice

Join a community of peers to connect and share practice on chosen topics e.g. SEND, oracy, enrichment.

## Group Assessment

### Class-level formative assessment tool

Access to Skills Builder Hub's formative assessment tool to track your groups progress over the year. Re-assess at any point to track your learner's skills journey over the year.

### Class Admin Dashboards

Identify recommended resources for each class, see your premium resources and log which resources have been used.

### Class level data & progress insights

Track your whole school data to see how each class is progressing throughout the year, and what resources they have been utilising.

## Teaching Resources

### Core teaching Resource Library

Access to hundreds of Short Lessons, self-assessment materials, certificates, workshops and assemblies to build your skills curriculum.

### Exclusive Membership Resources

New for this year - a whole catalogue of additional \*brand new\* resources only available on a Skills Builder programme.

### Operation Moonbase Challenge Day

A great resource to get the year started, learners use their skills to build a new society on a distant moon!

### All premium teaching resources

Bring your skills curriculum to life with our Challenge Days, Projects & Work Experience Modules - fully planned and ready to go.

## Individual Assessment

### 1 Admin Dashboard & unlimited Managers

Oversee your learner's self assessments on Skills Builder Benchmark so that you can monitor progress and support their journeys.

### Individual learner data & progress insights

See how individuals and groups are progressing to make your planning easy to direct and implement.

### Learner self-assessment & directed assessment

Learners can self-assess against the essential skill steps, and you can tell them which steps to focus on.

### 360-degree feedback & digital evidence portfolios

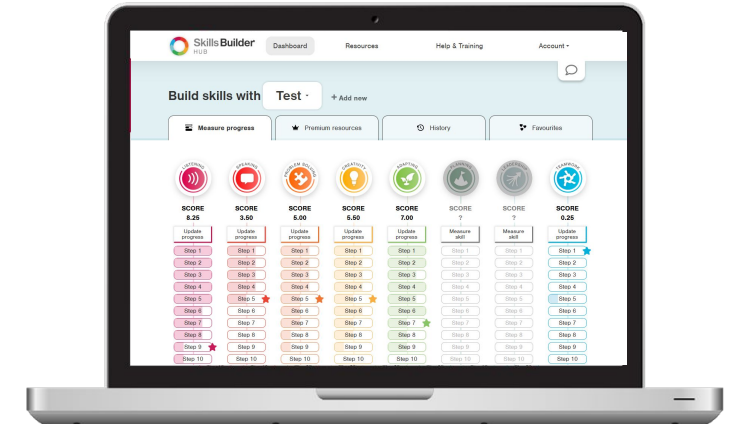
Include teacher feedback with 360 assessment, and give learners a platform for recording evidence of their progress.

# What is Skills Builder Hub?

## Skills Builder Hub

### Online resource & impact platform for teachers

- High-quality resources for learners aged 4-18 designed by teachers for teachers
- 300+ Short Lessons, assemblies, workshops, posters, certificates, passports, curriculum guides
- Diagnostic tool - Measure skills and aggregate data for progress
- Online, bitesize teacher training modules



[Explore the Hub here](#)



Access hundreds of 15-minute, interactive lessons to start the day or bolster the curriculum



Boost careers education with resources linking skills and the world of work



Save time with ready-made projects and challenges for project-based learning



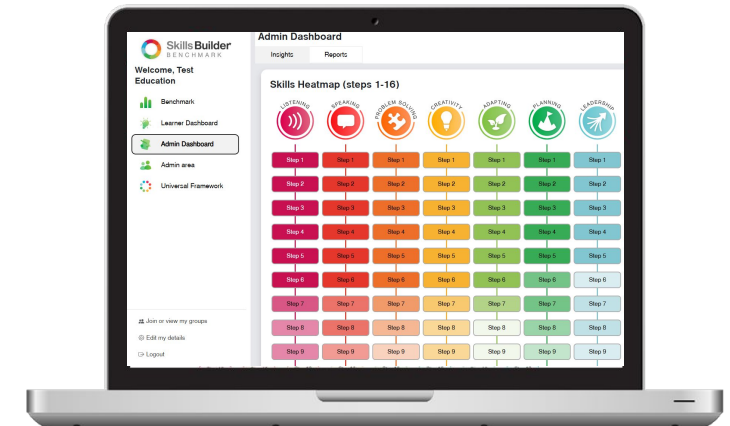
Find downloadable resources to link skills and the wider curriculum

# What is Skills Builder Benchmark?

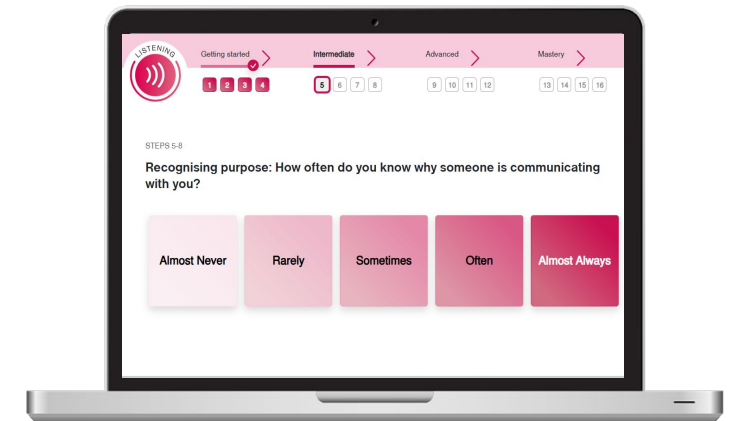
## Skills Builder Benchmark

### Online self-assessment platform for learners

- Skills Builder Benchmark can provide a snapshot of learners' current skill set and identify new areas for growth.
- Each skill is broken down into themes, and then smaller steps, so learners can make quick and easy reflections.
- Teachers can create groups for learners to join, allowing staff to track progress, pitch teaching, and offer coaching and interventions.
- Admins can oversee all staff and learners across the school or college, allowing for wide-scale interventions and progress reporting and celebration.
- On Impact - access to directed assessment, which allows you to narrow the focus, moving away from broad self-reflection to specific, intentional skill development.
- On Thrive - access to 360 assessment (add in teacher reflections on skill levels) and digital portfolios (learners can save written evidence and reflections about their skills journeys).



[Explore Benchmark here](#)



# Which tier is right for us?

## Choose Your Impact

Our membership tiers are designed to match your institution's strategic goals. Select the level that best supports your learners' journey for 2026-27.

**90% of Skills Leaders using our framework & tools report a direct, visible boost in their learners' readiness for the world beyond the classroom.**

### Core

**Consistent  
whole class  
delivery**

Perfect for schools focusing on high-quality, teacher-led skill development.  
**\*NEW for 26-27\*** Membership-only resources, Communities of Practice & Networking

### Growth

**Embedding  
across the  
curriculum**

Ideal for integrating skills into every subject with a wider variety of content and all premium resources.  
**\*NEW for 26-27\*** Membership-only resources, Communities of Practice & Networking

### Impact

**Data driven  
outcomes**

Designed for schools that need to prove progress at an individual level.  
**\*NEW for 26-27\*** Membership-only resources, Communities of Practice & Networking, Directed Assessment, updated dashboards & Admin License

### Thrive

**Capture the  
evidence**

**Most recommended for FE.** The gold standard for careers reporting, inspection evidence, and student-led growth.  
**\*NEW for 26-27\*** All of the above, plus 360 Degree Feedback & Digital Skills Portfolios.



# How to join the partnership

## Start your skills journey today

Ready to bring the universal language of essential skills to your classrooms? Getting started is quick and easy:

1. **Choose your tier:** Review the options on Page 7 to see which level of access best matches your school or college improvement plan.
2. **Fill out the application form:** Click the button below to access our registration form. Select your tier, input your institution's details, and set up your billing.
3. **Get started:** Once registered, our team will be in touch to get you set up on your chosen platforms, where your staff can begin utilising the resources immediately for the upcoming term.

[Join the Skills Builder Partnership here](#)

### Any questions?

Reach out to our Senior Education Associate, Lauren:

[lauren.chester-loveless@skillsbuilder.org](mailto:lauren.chester-loveless@skillsbuilder.org)

*“Embedding the Skills Builder framework into our study programme has transformed both the learning experience and the outcomes for our students at Harrison College.*

*It gives our young people a clear, structured way to understand and develop the essential skills they need for life and employment.*

*We’ve seen their confidence, independence and readiness for the workplace grow significantly, and employers consistently tell us that our learners stand out because of these strengths.*

*Skills Builder hasn’t just supported our curriculum - it has empowered our students to realise their potential.”*

**Gemma Peebles**  
Principal and CEO  
Harrison College



*"The overall impact of the Skills Builder programme at Waltham Forest College has been significant. One of the most powerful outcomes has been the development of a golden thread that weaves these essential skills consistently through every aspect of the learner journey... This has helped create a shared language around employability and personal development, making skill-building a visible and valued part of everyday college life."*

Waltham Forest College

## Waltham Forest College

Waltham Forest College, a Further Education institution in East London, has embedded the Skills Builder Universal Framework across all vocational programmes, work experience, and enrichment activities. Using diagnostic tools at the start of the year, tutors track progress and deliberately map core competencies directly into schemes of work. This systemic approach forms a 'golden thread' that ensures skill development is integral to practical courses - from Barbering to Travel & Tourism - and connects everyday classroom teaching with real-world employer engagement.



**Skills Builder**  
*Gold Award*

[Read the case study here](#)

## HOW MUCH DOES DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP COST?

Prices start at £490 for our Core tier, and go up to £1,995 for our Thrive tier. Choose the tier that matches your data and resource needs for the coming year.

## HOW AND WHEN DO I APPLY FOR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP?

Ready to get started? You can register for Digital Membership at any point throughout the year via our website [here](#). To keep things streamlined for schools and colleges, all memberships align with the standard academic year running from September through July.

Because our pricing structure is fixed for the year, we are unable to offer pro-rata rates, meaning the annual tier cost remains the same regardless of your start date. However, signing up at any point grants your team immediate, unrestricted access to all of your tier's platforms and resources for the remainder of that academic year.

## WHEN WILL MY DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP START?

Your 2026-27 Digital Membership will run September 2026 – July 2027. Your programme automatically renews annually, and you will be sent your renewal options in the summer term.

## WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Digital Membership provides self-service access to your chosen platforms and resources. As part of your membership, you will receive regular programme emails, 3 x 30 minute support calls for technical queries and email support from our team all year round.

## DO YOU PROVIDE CPD?

CPD is not a core part of our Digital Membership programmes, but we can offer CPD sessions for an additional cost.

## CAN YOU HELP US PLAN OUR PROGRAMME?

Digital Membership is a self-service programme. Bespoke Support Time can be added on to your programme for an additional cost, which can be used to support planning, strategy, resource creation, data analysis and more.

If you want to explore a programme with a higher level of support, our Accelerator Programme offers 1:1 support from a dedicated Education Associate. The Accelerator opens for applications every spring term, and runs for the whole of the following academic year. You can find out more [here](#).

## WHAT IS SKILLS BUILDER HUB?

Skills Builder Hub is our online teacher platform. It is designed for teachers, by teachers and gives you the tools and resources needed to successfully teach essential skills. It also features a group assessment tool, to measure your learners' progress.

## HOW DOES THE ASSESSMENT TOOL WORK?

The assessment tool offers a quick and easy way to assess your class or group as a whole, so that you can pitch your skills teaching at the right level for your learners.

The tool saves all of your data over time, so you can see how much progress your class or group has made. It also recommends resources based on your assessment. People with Admin-level access can see the Data Overview, which shows the progress of all classes and groups across the whole school or college.

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE ON THE HUB?

The Hub houses hundreds of resources, including short lessons (to explicitly teach the core ideas of each skill step), posters, certificates, skills passports, workshops, mini-apprenticeships, careers challenges and more. New to this year, we will be adding a whole extra level of resources, only available to those on a programme with us.

## HOW DO WE USE THE HUB?

Hub has its own [Help & Training](#) section, which takes you through everything you need to know to get the most out of the platform. We also have a YouTube channel with an overview video [here](#).

## WHAT IS A CHALLENGE DAY RESOURCE?

Best delivered off-timetable by classroom teachers, you can run it with multiple year groups at once or over separate days. In each Challenge Day, learners apply all 8 essential skills. See Challenge Days [here](#) on the Hub.

## WHAT ARE PROJECT RESOURCES?

Best delivered over 10 hours, over a series of lessons. Work best in primaries and specialist settings. 24 themes, suitable for EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS3. See Projects [here](#) on the Hub.

## WHAT ARE VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE MODULES?

4 modules, each with 8 x 15 min sections that feature videos and tasks set by real employees in a variety of careers. See modules [here](#) on the Hub.

## WHERE CAN I FIND YOUR PRODUCT POLICIES?

Our Product Policies can be found on our website [here](#).

## WHAT IS SKILLS BUILDER BENCHMARK?

Skill Builder Benchmark is our online self assessment tool for learners aged 14+. Learners can self-assess against the essential skills, and teachers can see their progress over time.

## HOW DO WE USE BENCHMARK?

Check out our YouTube channel Benchmark playlist [here](#).

## WHERE CAN I FIND YOUR PRODUCT POLICIES?

Our Product Policies can be found on our website [here](#).

## DIRECTED ASSESSMENT

### Targeted skill scaffolding

Learners unsure of which skills and steps they should be focusing on? **Directed Assessment** allows you to narrow the focus, moving away from broad self-reflection to specific, intentional skill development. It's designed to help you align skill tracking with your existing curriculum, making progress both manageable for learners and visible for Ofsted or Gatsby Benchmarks.

## 360 ASSESSMENT

### Individual teacher assessment

Self-assessment is a vital starting point, but teacher validation provides the professional rigor learners need. **360**

**Assessment** brings a second pair of eyes to the process, allowing educators to confirm a learner's proficiency. It's the ultimate tool for identifying learners who lack confidence (underselling their skills) versus those who may have a skewed perception of their current abilities. It closes the loop between how a learner sees themselves and how they are performing in the eyes of their teachers (and ultimately, a future employer). **360 Assessment** also allows you to ensure an accurate, staff-led data set, perfect for robust reporting and intervention.

## DIGITAL EVIDENCE PORTFOLIOS

### Capturing the 'lightbulb' moments

A skills score is a data point; a learner's reflection is a breakthrough. This feature transforms Benchmark from a tracking tool into a **Digital Skills Portfolio**. It empowers learners to articulate & evidence their own growth, helping them bridge the gap between 'doing an activity' and 'mastering a skill' - essential for future interviews and personal statements.