



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP
UK



Accelerator Prospectus 2026-27

Build essential skills through curriculum, enrichment and careers education



*Supporting the Skills
Builder Award*



Contents

Page 3	Essential skills
Page 4	The Partnership
Page 5	Programme timeline
Page 6	Programme details
Page 7-12	Phase specific success stories
Page 13	Becoming a Skills Leader
Page 14	Frequently asked questions
Page 15	How to apply





Address reforms with skills as the golden thread

Whether it's through curriculum, enrichment, careers, inclusion or project-based learning, it's never been more important to invest your learners' skills. Skills like speaking, listening and problem-solving are essential for success in education, wider life and future employment.

Join the movement of over 1,000 primaries, secondaries, special settings and colleges threading skills across the learning journey. Together, we'll address incoming changes with a manageable, long-term and rigorous approach.



Who we are and how we work

We are a not-for-profit run by qualified, former teachers. Over 1,000 schools, colleges, MATs, charities and employers work with us to address unequal access to high-quality skills education.

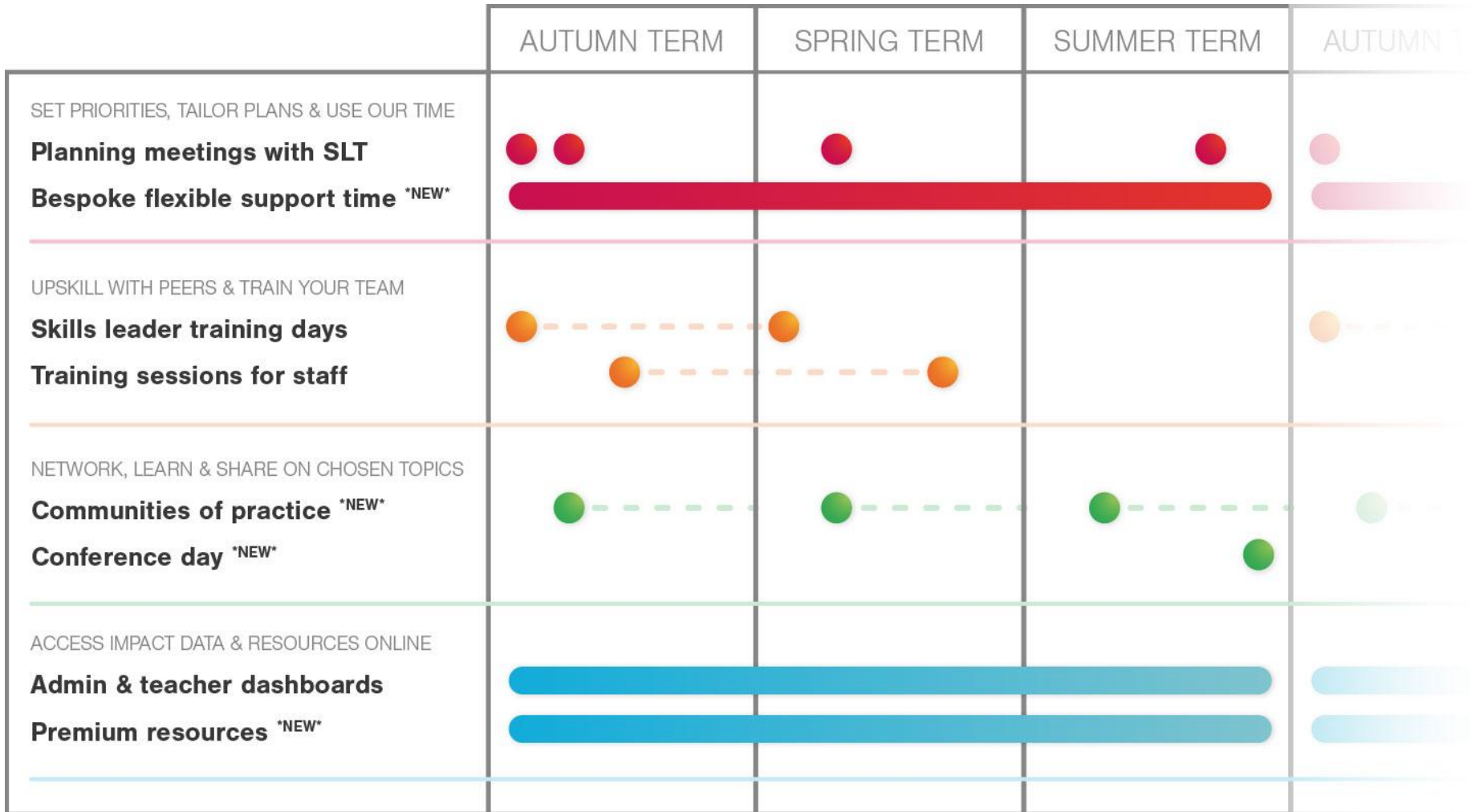
We use the [Skills Builder Universal Framework](#), which consolidates the array of international frameworks into 8 essential skills. Each skill is broken down into a sequence of learner outcomes, with targeted resources to support learners of all ages and abilities.

On the Accelerator programme*, you can join a network of educators working with us.



- Implement the **revised curriculum**, to ensure it is knowledge-rich and strong on skills.
- Design **enrichment provision**, to meet the incoming Enrichment Benchmarks.
- Quantify **personal development**, to support the most disadvantaged and demonstrate this to Ofsted.
- Embed **careers** across the curriculum, to boost employability and meet the Gatsby Benchmarks.
- Develop **Individual Support Plans**, to support those with SEND and meet National Inclusion Standards.
- Explicitly teach **speaking** and **listening** skills, to embed **oracy** across your lessons and subjects.

Programme timeline



Programme details

SET PRIORITIES, TAILOR PLANS & USE OUR TIME

Planning meetings with SLT



A welcome call and 3 video calls for the Skills Leader, a member of SLT and your dedicated associate to make plans. Book anytime.

Bespoke flexible support time ^{*NEW*}



Use our time to update curriculum plans, create resources, update policies, run workshops. Contact us anytime.

UPSKILL WITH PEERS & TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Skills leader training days



Two online training days (9am - 2.30pm) to connect and learn with fellow Skills Leaders. Multiple dates available.

Training sessions for staff



Two online tailored training sessions with your teaching staff to upskill and walk through resources. Book anytime.

NETWORK, LEARN & SHARE ON CHOSEN TOPICS

Communities of practice ^{*NEW*}



Join a community of peers exploring research and practice on chosen topics e.g. SEND, citizenship, work experience. Multiple dates available.

Conference day ^{*NEW*}



Connect, learn and share with fellow educators, as well as our network of employer partners and charities using Skills Builder. July TBC.

ACCESS IMPACT DATA & RESOURCES ONLINE

Admin & teacher dashboards



Access 300+ resources and class-level assessment on Skills Builder Hub. Add older learners to Skills Builder Benchmark to self-assess. Available all year.

Premium resources ^{*NEW*}



Access resources for off-timetable days and extended projects via Skills Builder Hub. Some additional costs involved. Available all year.

What this might look like in...

Primary

- Whole-school impact with termly focus skill
- Develop a new citizenship curriculum
- Design enrichment & personal development

[Click to apply](#)

Secondary

- Embed careers curriculum & work experience
- Ready-to-use resources for tutors
- Explore project qualifications

[Click to apply](#)

Specialist settings

- Develop Individual Support Plans
- Project-based-learning resources
- Reward and celebrate individual progress

[Click to apply](#)

College and FE

- Online learner self-assessment tool
- Targets for personal development meetings
- Embed skills into A-, T- and V- levels

[Click to apply](#)



The Award

The Skills Builder Award recognises high-quality essential skills education. [Six best practice principles](#) have been refined with more than 1,000 schools and colleges over the last decade. These six principles will form the basis of your teaching and your success in achieving them will be recognised with the Skills Builder Award.

You can explore over 200 case studies from across the UK [here](#)



Skills Builder
Bronze Award



Skills Builder
Silver Award



Skills Builder
Gold Award



“The impact on the children was immediate, with high levels of engagement and a clear link with developing communication and confidence...”

Sophie Gavalda
Head Teacher, William Tyndale Primary

Read case study [here](#)

Primary success story

William Tyndale Primary School

Sophie Gavalda is Head Teacher at William Tyndale. She has been working with Skills Builder since 2013. Their approach is **deeply integrated and long-term**. They have a structured whole-school learning programme which involves the wider community. This way, all pupils - from Nursery to Year 6 - develop essential skills explicitly and make progress year on year.



Skills Builder
Gold Award



“Skills Builder has provided a universal language for staff and pupils when discussing essential skills for life. The skills are used to complement our existing Personal Development programme...”

Form tutors use the resources and have reported improvement in the use of the skills and increased confidence from pupils using them throughout the year.”

Emily Abberley
Assistant Head Teacher,
The Oaks Academy

Secondary success story

Read case study [here](#)

The Oaks Academy

Essential skills are aligned to the school’s **existing Personal Development Programme** with Years 7-10. There are regular **teaching opportunities during form time** and also Career Champions across all curriculum areas focusing on employability skills. The skills are embedded into the school’s reward system and referenced in assemblies, extra curricular activities, enterprise days and careers events throughout the year.



Skills Builder
Brouze Award





SEND success story

Read case study [here](#)

Nancealverne School

Essential skills are **threaded through the taught curriculum** from Early Years to Post 16. There is allocated time on the timetable to develop essential skills, including project based learning and off timetable challenge days. Skills and steps are **linked to existing planning, assessment and feedback systems**. Learners practice their essential skills **as a matter of course throughout their day**.

“The impact of the Accelerator Programme has been vast...

Skills Builder is the perfect resource for us as a Special School as the Universal Framework links well to our principles and values.

Teachers and students really engage and respond to Skills Builder.”

Jodie Phillips,
Assistant Headteacher,
Nancealverne School



Skills Builder
Gold Award



College success story

Read case study [here](#)

St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College

Students are given the opportunity to **reflect on their essential skills via the online self-assessment tool, Skills Builder Benchmark**. Students track progress and discuss areas for development in conversation with their tutors or lecturers, and skill targets are set. Essential skills are **championed through curriculum areas**, project based learning, work experience and special employer events.

“Adopting the Universal Framework has given teachers and students a simple language to make the teaching of these essential skills explicit...”

These are the skills that will help our students with social mobility and benefit their futures.”

Thomas Worms,
Director of Personal
Development, St Francis
Xavier Sixth Form
College



Skills Builder
Silver Award

Becoming a Skills Leader

Lead a transformative programme

As the Skills Leader, you will be the driving force behind your programme. You will join a network of 200 fellow Skills Leaders. A dedicated colleague at Skills Builder will work with you and your Senior Leaders to deliver a transformational programme in your school or college.

Showcase your achievements

At the end of the year, you will reflect on your progress and if you reach the standards, achieve a Skills Builder Award. You can read case studies written by previous Skills Leaders [here](#).





Frequently asked questions

How do I apply?

Visit skillsbuilder.uk/uk-accelerator and apply online. Applications will be reviewed and funding confirmed after each round deadline.

Am I eligible for a fully-funded place?

Every year, we fundraise over £500,000 to make 200 places available at no cost to state-maintained UK schools and colleges, and some independent special schools. You can check your eligibility [here](#).

Is this part of curriculum, enrichment or careers?

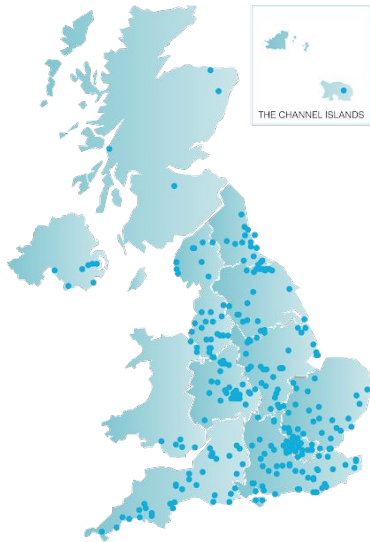
Any or all of the above! We have examples of schools and colleges from across the UK building essential skills into all aspects of the school or college day.

When should I apply?

As soon as you can. We anticipate that programme places and associated funding will be oversubscribed. Those that apply in the Spring term will be invited to get started early in Summer.

Who should be the Skills Leader?

We recommend someone with leadership capacity. You will need to attend 2 virtual training days and 3 meetings across the year, as well as organising teacher training sessions for your staff as part of the CPD calendar.



How to apply

Register your interest [here](#)

Stay informed with the latest updates on funded places*

Speak to the team [here](#)

Meet the team, preview resources and ask any questions.

Send us an email

Still unsure? Email us at accelerator@skillsbuilder.org

Early Bird deadline

**Friday 27 March
2026**

Round 1 deadline

**Friday 22 May
2026**

Round 2 deadline

**Friday 10 July
2026**

Apply in the Spring term and be invited to get started early in Summer.

Apply online at

skillsbuilder.uk/uk-accelerator

**Only 200 fully-funded places available to UK state-maintained schools and colleges in 2026-27.*