

BCX Frequently Asked Questions

Thinking about your options after Year 11 can feel like a big decision. BCX is designed to give students a supportive, career-focused next step, helping them build qualifications, confidence, independence and real-world experience before progressing to further study, an apprenticeship, training or employment.

Below are answers to some of the questions students, parents and carers most often ask.

What is BCX?

BCX is Bodmin College's post-16 provision. It offers a different kind of sixth-form experience, with a strong focus on Career Powered Education, practical learning, work experience and preparing students for their next step.

BCX is intended to act as a bridge between school and what comes next, whether that is college, further study, an apprenticeship, training or employment.

What is the atmosphere like at BCX?

BCX is a small, supportive and purposeful post-16 community.

Students are known well by staff and are encouraged to become increasingly independent and take greater responsibility for themselves. The atmosphere is more adult than Year 11, while still providing the structure and support that some students benefit from as they prepare for their next step.

We have high expectations, but we also recognise that every student is different. Our aim is to help each young person build confidence, develop their strengths and make positive progress.

Who is BCX for?

BCX may be a good option for students who:

- want a smaller and more supportive post-16 environment;
- prefer practical and career-focused learning;

- would benefit from completing a Level 2 programme before progressing further;
- want to develop confidence and independence before moving to a larger college or apprenticeship;
- need to continue working towards a Grade 4 in GCSE English and/or Maths;
- are not yet completely sure what they want to do in the future;
- want more opportunities to gain workplace experience.

BCX is not simply a “fallback” option. It is a purposeful progression route designed to prepare students for their future.

What level are the qualifications?

Our programmes are typically Level 2 qualifications.

Level 2 courses can provide an excellent stepping stone into Level 3 study, apprenticeships, training or employment. Our qualifications are selected with future progression in mind and are designed to develop practical skills and professional behaviours.

What courses will be available in September 2027?

Our course offer continues to develop.

For September 2027, we have currently confirmed:

Career Foundations

Education & Early Years

We will also be introducing an exciting new suite of Occupational Certificates, offering further practical, career-focused routes linked to employment sectors and future progression.

Our offer will continue to grow as courses are confirmed.

Where can I find the latest course information?

The Course Cards section of the BCX website will always contain our most up-to-date course information.

Visit:

www.bodmincollege.co.uk/bcx

Because our qualification offer is developing, we recommend checking the website regularly.

What are Occupational Certificates?

Occupational Certificates are a new part of our developing BCX curriculum.

They will provide practical, career-focused learning designed to develop the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours students need to progress towards employment, an apprenticeship or further study.

More information about individual Occupational Certificates will be added to the Course Cards section of the website as courses are confirmed.

What is Career Foundations?

Career Foundations is one of our confirmed programmes for September 2027.

It is designed for students who would benefit from a broad, career-focused programme while developing the skills, confidence and experience needed to make their next move.

Full details of the programme, including the latest course information, can be found in the Course Cards section of the BCX website.

What is Education & Early Years?

Education & Early Years is also confirmed for September 2027.

The programme is designed for students interested in working with children, young people or within education and early-years settings.

Full course information will be available through the Course Cards section of the website.

What GCSE grades do I need?

Entry requirements will vary depending on the programme.

BCX has traditionally taken a flexible approach to entry requirements, recognising that the right course and progression pathway matters as well as GCSE grades.

The individual Course Cards on the website will show the most up-to-date entry requirements for each programme.

If you are unsure whether your GCSE results are likely to meet the requirements, please speak to the BCX team rather than assuming that you cannot apply.

What happens if I don't get the GCSE grades I expected?

Please talk to us.

We know that results do not always go according to plan. Our aim is to help students find an appropriate pathway and set them up to succeed.

We can discuss your results, interests and future plans with you and help you understand the options available.

Can I continue GCSE English and Maths?

Yes.

Students who have not achieved a Grade 4 in GCSE English and/or Maths can continue studying these subjects as part of their post-16 programme.

English and Maths are important because achieving Grade 4 can unlock more progression opportunities in further education, apprenticeships and employment.

Is BCX just about qualifications?

No.

Qualifications are important, but BCX is also about preparing students for adult life and their future career.

Students develop confidence, independence, employability, digital skills, resilience, wellbeing and wider life skills alongside their main programme.

What is Career Powered Education?

Career Powered Education connects learning with the real world.

Students do not simply study a qualification and then think about careers at the end. Careers, employers, work experience and progression are built into the BCX experience.

Our aim is for students to understand why they are learning something, where it could take them and what employers will expect from them.

The prospectus describes BCX as developing the skills, knowledge and real-world experience students need for college, apprenticeships or employment.

Will I do work experience?

Work experience is an important part of BCX.

We want students to gain meaningful experience with employers, develop workplace skills, build confidence and get a better understanding of what different industries are really like.

The exact amount and type of work experience will depend on the programme being studied.

What is the GROWTH Programme?

GROWTH is our personal development programme.

It recognises that being successful after school requires much more than qualifications alone.

Students develop across six areas:

Giving Back – making a positive contribution to the community.

Resilience and Wellbeing – developing confidence, emotional awareness and healthy habits.

Opportunities to Enrich – trying new experiences, projects, trips and challenges.

Work and Life Skills – developing careers knowledge, financial awareness and practical skills for independence.

Technology and Digital Skills – becoming confident, responsible and capable users of technology.

Health and Physical Activity – supporting healthy lifestyles and keeping active.

What does a typical day look like?

Most of the day will be centred around your chosen qualification, with specialist teaching and practical learning.

Students will also have opportunities for work placements, personal development, careers activities and additional experiences and qualifications.

The timetable will depend on the programme being studied.

Is BCX the same as Year 11?

No.

Although BCX is part of Bodmin College, students are joining a post-16 community.

There is greater independence, greater responsibility and a stronger focus on preparing for employment and adult life.

Staff are still there to provide support, but students are expected to become increasingly responsible for managing their time, attendance, work and professional behaviour.

What support will I receive?

Being part of a smaller post-16 community means students can be known well by the adults working with them.

Support may include:

- regular contact with BCX staff;
- help with organisation and progress;
- careers guidance;
- support with applications and interviews;
- help planning next steps;
- support with English and Maths where required;
- personal development through GROWTH.

Our aim is to combine support with increasing independence, so students become more confident in managing their own future.

What support is available for students with SEND or additional needs?

We encourage students and families to speak to us early.

BCX is a mainstream post-16 provision, but the smaller environment and supportive approach may suit some students with additional needs.

Where appropriate, we can work with students, families and the College Inclusion Team to understand an individual student's needs and consider what support may be required.

It is important that suitability is discussed individually rather than assumptions being made about whether BCX is or is not right for a student.

What if I am worried about moving into post-16 education?

That is completely understandable.

Moving on from Year 11 is a significant change, and different students need different levels of support with transition.

We encourage students to visit BCX, meet the team and ask questions. For students who would benefit from additional transition support, we can discuss what might help them feel more confident about the move.

Can students from other schools apply?

Yes.

BCX welcomes students from Bodmin and beyond. You do not need to be a current Bodmin College student to find out more or apply.

Where can BCX lead?

BCX is designed to be a bridge to what comes next.

Depending on the student's programme, interests and achievements, progression might include:

- a Level 3 course;
- further education at another college;
- an apprenticeship;
- training;
- employment.

Students can also receive support with applications, interview preparation and planning the practical steps involved in progressing after BCX.

Can BCX help me apply to college or for an apprenticeship?

Yes.

Preparing students for their next destination is a key part of BCX.

We can help students explore their options, complete applications, prepare for interviews and think through the practical steps involved in moving into further education, apprenticeships or employment.

What if I still don't know what I want to do?

You do not need to have your whole future planned at 15 or 16.

One of the purposes of BCX is to help students explore their strengths, experience the workplace, understand different career routes and make better-informed decisions about what they want to do next.

Come and talk to us about your interests and we can help you explore the possibilities.

What if I change my mind about my plans?

Speak to the BCX team.

Our priority is to help students choose a pathway that gives them the best chance of succeeding. The prospectus encourages students to talk to the team if their plans change so that their options can be discussed.

How do I find out whether BCX is right for me?

Come and experience it.

Look at the Course Cards on our website, attend the Open Evening, speak to the BCX team and ask questions.

Choosing a post-16 destination is important, and we encourage students and families to explore different options before making a decision.

BCX Open Evening

Our BCX Open Evening takes place on:

Thursday 15 October 2026

There will be talks at:

5.00pm

6.00pm

The evening is an opportunity to:

- meet the BCX team;
- explore the BCX environment;
- hear about our courses;
- understand Career Powered Education;
- find out about work experience and GROWTH;
- discuss English and Maths;
- ask questions about support and progression;
- talk to us about whether BCX could be the right next step.

Do I need to know which course I want before coming to the Open Evening?

No.

The Open Evening is designed to help you explore your options. You are welcome to attend even if you have no idea yet which course or career area interests you.

Where can I find out more?

Visit the BCX website:

www.bodmincollege.co.uk/bcx

The Course Cards contain the latest information about qualifications available for September 2027.

If you still have questions after looking at the website, please get in touch with the BCX team.