



● Prospectus

Bring your
learning to life!

RNC - More than a College!

RNC is more than a College; we are a registered charity committed to providing essential services and support.

Our charity work focuses on enhancing the quality of life for visually impaired young people, not only offering specialist training and independent living skills, but state-of-the-art facilities and enriching extra-curricular activities. We rely on the generosity of donors and supporters to continue our vital work, ensuring that our students receive the best possible education and care.

Join us in making a difference

Your interest in RNC means more than exploring an educational path; it means becoming part of a community dedicated to breaking down barriers and creating a more inclusive society. Whether you are a prospective student, a parent, or a supporter, we welcome you to join us in our mission to make a lasting difference to the lives of visually impaired young people.

How you can help

If you would like to support our work, please contact our Fundraising team via email at fund@rnc.ac.uk Alternatively, you can scan the QR/Navilens code to make a donation. Every contribution big or small, helps us to continue providing life-changing opportunities and services to those who need them most.



Contents

02	Welcome	43	Business Studies
03	Vision and Mission Statements	44	English
04	Why RNC?	45	Extended Project (EPQ)
06	The RNC Difference	46	Health and Social Care
08	Top 10 Reasons to Study With Us	48	History
10	Funding	49	Home Cooking Skills
12	International Students	50	IT - Information Technology
13	EHCP and Placement Funding Advice	53	Massage and Complementary Therapies
14	How to Apply	55	Mathematics
17	Student Support Services	56	Modern Foreign Languages
21	Additional Support	57	Preparation for Higher Education
23	Something for Everyone	59	Psychology
24	thePoint4	60	Sociology
26	Your Future	63	Sports Academy
29	Our Courses	65	Sports Coaching and Development
30	ASPIRE Study Programme	67	Sport and Recreation
35	Assistive and Digital Technologies	68	Get in Touch
37	Audio Media Production		
38	Biology		
40	Braille		

Please note, as a result of the government's vocational qualification reform, some courses may be subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information, please refer to our website www.rnc.ac.uk/courses.

Welcome

RNC is a unique place. It's somewhere that you can learn to be yourself amongst a peer group who have similar life experiences. It's a place where you will be valued for who you are now, and for the person that you are becoming.

Our dedicated, specialist staff and superb facilities enable us to deliver our programmes with a focus on meeting your individual needs, both in and out of the classroom. We are a national centre of expertise for people with visual impairments, and our broad curriculum combines academic and vocational subjects with specialist skills for life to help you to prepare for the future, in line with the *Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment*. This means we can offer a programme of study that is tailored to you.

We focus on independent learning and living, making RNC somewhere that you can develop the skills and confidence to thrive not only while you are here, but in your life after College.

RNC is a community where diversity is celebrated and each student is treated as an individual. We understand that the journey to overcoming barriers to achieving personal aims is unique to each student. We will work with you to help you find your own path to the future.

This prospectus will provide you with more information about all that RNC has to offer, but I also strongly encourage you to visit us to hear about the College first hand, from our students.

Lucy Proctor
Executive Principal



Welcome to RNC. Here there is a wide focus on your holistic development, rather than just academic achievement.

While at RNC, you will develop skills that will help you in the future, such as mobility, independent living skills, Braille, and help with future employment.

An example of this would be that I came to the College with three A Levels, so my main focus was less on studying and more on learning key skills that would help me in the future.

It's also a great chance to get to know a wide range of different people and to take part in a multitude of activities and opportunities.

Whilst having a full-on timetable in the week, there is a wide range of activities that both allow students to have a lot of fun and to make lifelong friends and connect with people who have gone through similar experiences.

I think it is a brilliant place, and I think that I and many of my peers will leave here with the ability to face life full on.

Emmy Anstee
Student Ambassador



Vision and Mission

Our Vision

A world where every person with a visual impairment has true equality

Our Mission

Education, employment and empowerment for all people with a visual impairment

Ofsted

RNC is proud to have achieved a 'Good' rating from Ofsted during its inspection in 2024.

“Students are taught effectively by staff who are experts in teaching students with visual impairments. Staff work well with students to provide the support they need. This includes individualised support and teaching in their academic and vocational courses as well as their independent living skills sessions. The college has developed highly individualised curriculums in which students work towards their academic and personal goals. Staff teach students to use adaptive technologies and Braille. As a result, most students progress in their studies and are prepared well for their next steps.”

Os hoffech gael unrhyw o'r wybodaeth hon yn y Gymraeg, rhowch wybod i ni.

Each year RNC welcomes international students.

If you require any of the College's information in an alternative format or another language, please contact Student Enquiries.

01432 376 621
info@rnc.ac.uk
www.rnc.ac.uk

Why RNC?

The College experience is more than obtaining vocational or academic qualifications. It's about achievement beyond the classroom, a time when you start to develop the self-confidence, personal independence, and communication skills you need for your next step. This is your journey for your future.

Academic

Offering a range of subjects at Level 2 (GCSE, BTEC, etc) and Level 3 (AS and A Levels, BTEC, Cambridge Technical, etc) and with specialist teaching staff and small class sizes, RNC gives students wishing to pursue a more traditional college path the chance to shine. We encourage independent learning enabling you to realise your potential and leave with a true sense of personal achievement.

Vocational

We offer a comprehensive range of training programmes at Levels 2 and 3 (Active IQ, iTEC, NCFE, RSL, and VTCT). These programmes give you the practical skills, experience, and qualifications you need to follow specific career pathways. At RNC we are proud of the number of qualified students who leave us and embark on careers in fitness, massage, technology, media, the arts, and sport.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme

Our CEIAG team ensures all students have access to comprehensive, unbiased, individualised careers advice, guidance, and planning.

Every student will create a Career and Transition Action Plan to have clarity and confidence in taking their next steps.

Our Career Development Programme is progressive, student-focused, and personalised. The aim is to prepare you to independently navigate your career pathway with an awareness of opportunities available, employer and employee responsibilities, and what to expect along the way.

University preparation

You will benefit from a dedicated team who will guide you through your university and course research, UCAS applications, student finance and Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) applications; support you with university visits; and provide informed talks from Higher Education professionals. Living at a residential college is great preparation for university life.

Preparing for employment

To help you move into your future career, the CEIAG team will guide you through a range of employability skills, including how to compile CVs, write covering letters, and complete application forms. You will undertake mock interviews. You will learn how to conduct digital job searches and establish a professional presence on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Google

Students complete a minimum of a week-long work experience placement each year. You may also attend regular placements provided by local employers, or internal/external work-based learning projects, where you can further develop your employability skills.

Being accomplished in your chosen medium of accessible technology, utilising time management practice, and other independence skills will enable you to succeed within the workplace.



The RNC Difference

Alongside your academic or vocational courses, you will have the chance to learn essential skills that will be invaluable as you move into work or Higher Education.

Independent Living Skills

Independent Living Skills provides a flexible programme that is tailored to build on your current skills and meet your future ambitions. Everything from money management to cookery skills, laundry to supermarket shopping is covered, helping you to prepare for life as a confident, independent person. You may wish to embark on our self-catering scheme if you are planning to go to university or to live in your own home after RNC.

Mobility Training

Mobility Training provides you with regular one-to-one sessions where you can increase your skills whilst learning how to access the RNC campus and the local area. Confident spatial awareness and mobility skills are central to your independence, from learning to use a cane and independent train and bus travel to guide dog support and advice.

Functional English and Mathematics

Functional English and Mathematics lessons offer practical and relevant training to help you improve your skills, raise your confidence, and support your study. A range of topics cover useful life skills, including financial budgeting and letter writing, and will provide you with a qualification up to Level 2.

Work Experience

During the College's annual work experience week, you will gain valuable, real-world experience of what life is really like in the workplace. You will have the chance to discover the type of role and environment that suits you through opportunities that are tailored to the career that interests you.

In addition to designated internal and external work experience, depending on your programme of study, you will be able to take advantage of the regular work-based learning opportunities at RNC. Vocational courses have this as an active component, enabling you to gain skills for your future place of work.



Students tell us how life-changing it is to be able to access their work in formats that suit their eye conditions. By providing a range of assistive technologies and alternative formats, we can give you the necessary tools to succeed and achieve your dreams independently.

Braille

RNC is the only organisation in the UK to offer Braille as a BTEC qualification. Tuition is provided by experienced, specialist teachers on a one-to-one basis. Lessons are individually tailored to each student so that you learn at your own pace.

Further information can be found on Page 40.

Assistive and Digital Technologies

IT gives independence back to a person who has been reliant on assistance or who has only recently lost their sight. So much of everyday life relies on our ability to use technology; increasingly, much of the information we need can only be accessed through electronic means. By having skills in assistive technology, a person with sight loss can easily access these materials.

At RNC we have a range of assistive technologies including:

- *JAWS* screen reader
- *SuperNova* screen reader and/or magnification
- *ZoomText* magnification

The programmes we offer are individualised. You will undertake a profiling activity which will enable us to work out a programme for you based around your current skills and needs.

Further information can be found on Page 35.

Braille Technology

Braille Technology is open to anyone who is studying Level 2 Braille or who already knows Level 2 Braille and wants to discover how the different specialist technologies work. You can explore the devices in a couple of workshops or delve deeper and become adept at using the equipment over the course of a year.

Students are welcome to bring their own devices. For those who are new to Braille technology, RNC has a range to try, from the latest BrailleNote Touch to Braille displays that can be used with PCs, laptops and Apple products. Some benefits of using Braille technology are that devices are quiet, easy to use, good for proofreading, portable, and ideal for using in lecture halls at university or in the workplace. The range of technology available means you will always have an option available to you.



Top 10 reasons to study with us

Expertise

Teaching staff are highly qualified, and experienced specialists in working with people with visual impairments and preparing accessible formats

Individualised Programmes

Each student has their own unique timetable built around their specific learning needs. Flexible timetables allow for a wide range of learning opportunities

Independent Learning

Students value the opportunity to learn without the support of teaching assistants. Having a secure working medium and being responsible for their own learning prepares students well for their next step

Skills For Life

Every student increases their independence across all aspects of their life. Skills for life are developed alongside their programme. This includes personal and social development, IT, Braille, mobility and independent living skills

Employability

The College is highly effective in developing self-confidence and social skills. Our work based learning opportunities ensure that students receive the employment skills they need for getting a job in the future, whatever their chosen profession

Top 10 reasons to study with us

Support Team

A variety of support teams, from residential and wellbeing to transition and employment, give students the best opportunity to thrive both socially and academically.

Location

A small but lively city, with direct trains from London, Manchester, Birmingham and Cardiff, Hereford is safe and welcoming to people with visual impairments, having been home to the College since 1978

Academic and Vocational

A wide range of courses to suit all students, from GCSEs and A Levels to industry standard vocational courses that are internationally recognised

Opportunities

From work experience and community projects to organising events or being part of the UK's only VI Sports Academy, RNC provides outstanding opportunities that will make your time here memorable

Progression

Students gain the qualifications, skills and confidence to successfully move on to Higher Education and employment. Independent living and participation in their communities are further key outcomes

Funding

Information for Students in England

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

EHCPs were introduced through the Children and Families Act (2014). They are available to young people up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs (SEN). All students who live in England and study at RNC have EHCPs. You may not have had an EHCP before, but may find that you do need one for your post-16 education, or because your needs have changed over time.

You have the right to request a needs assessment for an EHCP, or can ask for this to be done on your behalf, including by your current school or college. It can take up to 20 weeks from your first request to you receiving an EHCP if the local authority agrees that you need one. There are lots of steps along the way, and we can provide more specific information on this.

The key points are:

- your views and wishes should be at the heart of everything.
- the EHCP should include the full range of your needs, but also your strengths.
- the EHCP should emphasise the outcomes you seek to achieve and what support you will need to do this.
- it should be written in plain language, without jargon, so you can understand everything.

You can request that a specific provider - such as RNC - is named in your EHCP. If this is agreed, we will work together with your local authority to make sure that all of your needs are met and you achieve the outcomes detailed in your EHCP.

Your local authority will have a 'local offer', which will include the different provision that is available

to you. You may find that RNC is not included in the local offer because of our location, but you can still request a placement here.

Your local authority will also be able to signpost you to independent advice and guidance about EHCPs and the local offer. There are also lots of independent sources of advice, including charities and advocacy groups. If you would like information on any of these or to speak to one of our team about the EHCP process, contact us on 01432 376 621 or email info@rnc.ac.uk

Information for Students in Wales

The Welsh Government has introduced a new system of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) that replace Statements of Special Educational Needs and Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), formerly known as special educational needs or learning difficulties/disabilities.

IDPs are available to all young people with ALN up to the age of 25 if they need one in order to complete their education (not Higher Education). A young person may be considered to have ALN if they require support that is 'different or additional to that provided as part of the usual or differentiated curriculum'. ALN will therefore cover a very wide range of needs, including visual impairment.

The IDP will not only cover your educational needs but also any relevant health or social care needs. It will be a flexible document that will be reviewed and updated as your needs and ambitions change over time. Once your ALN have been described, Additional Learning Provision will be made available to meet those needs.

If you currently have a statement or an IEP, you will be entitled to an IDP, as long as you are in education and are under the age of 25. If you have not previously been identified as having ALN, you

can speak to your school or college, or go directly to your local authority to request one.

Within a school or college, the process of securing an IDP will be led by an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo), who will work together with you, your family and expert professionals to create a document that reflects your needs and personality. Where a school or college produces the IDP, they will have 35 days to complete the process. If your local authority produces it, they will have 12 weeks to do so (this is reduced to seven weeks if the local authority is reviewing the decision of a school or college rather than initiating the process). If your ALN cannot be met in your local school or college, your local authority will lead on the IDP, and you will be able to discuss the possibility of a placement at RNC with them.

The Welsh Government's aim in introducing this system is to put you at the heart of everything that happens, for your views to be taken into account at every stage, and for decisions to be taken locally by people who are familiar with your needs. Careers Wales will continue to provide independent careers advice, including advising you on your post 16 options.

If you would like advice on how to approach your local authority or to speak to one of our team about the IDP process, contact us on 01432 376 621 or email info@rnc.ac.uk.

Information for Students in Scotland

Visit www.enquire.org.uk for information on support in Scotland.

Information for Students in Northern Ireland

www.nidirect.gov.uk provides detailed information about what is available for young people with special educational needs in Northern Ireland.

Private Students

Students who are not eligible for funding from their local authority may wish to consider studying privately at RNC.

If you are considering funding your own placement, you can choose from any of the courses that we offer, subject to your current level of skills and experience. We would also encourage you to come and visit us to get a better understanding of what we can offer.

If you think RNC is right for you, the next step is to complete our application form. We will then book you in for a detailed Pre-Entry Assessment. This is an opportunity to meet the tutors and support team who you would be working with and to ask any questions you may have, as well as for us to assess your suitability for the course.

If the Pre-Entry Assessment shows that RNC would be a good match for you, we will then be able to make you a formal offer. This will be personalised to your own requirements, and in addition to your chosen course, it will include any mobility training, independence support, and general IT needs you may have.

At this stage we will also be able to confirm the exact cost of your programme and discuss a possible start date.

The costs will include accommodation and meals, although some students who are local to RNC choose to attend daily, depending on their existing mobility and independence skills.

If you think you may be interested in funding yourself to study at RNC, contact our Student Recruitment Team for an initial chat and to arrange a tour.

International Students

We are delighted to welcome students drawn by our international standing as a quality provider of specialist education, and in recent years we have been joined by students from countries as varied as Norway, Italy, Qatar, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia.

We can offer taster courses and tailor-made skills-based training of up to six months, to be discussed on an individual basis. While international students are expected to be privately funded, there may also be the option of a bursary contribution.

Unlike many specialist independent schools in the UK, RNC can offer a unique blend of college education, specialist provision, and preparation for university, employment, and independence.

RNC offers:

- tailored skills-based training and courses to suit every individual.
- mobility and orientation training.
- one-to-one teaching in independent living skills.
- training in digital and assistive technology.
- 24-hour residential staff on site.
- a homely environment in one of the country's most picturesque small cities.
- a wide range of extra-curricular activities.
- first class sporting facilities and training.
- help with English language learning.

Application and Funding

Complete the application for RNC and advise us how you intend to fund your placement.

In order to study at RNC, international students must have their own funding in place.

This can mean paying privately or securing sponsorship from your government or an employer.

We are unable to subsidise your place by providing any funding ourselves and do not offer a scholarship programme.

You will be invited for an initial interview online via Skype/Zoom/Teams. Our team will then arrange an in-depth virtual Pre-Entry Assessment.

Pre-Entry Assessment

The Pre-Entry Assessment will consist of a series of meetings with key members of our staff, including our teachers. You will also be expected to undertake a literacy and numeracy test.

During the process we will be able to establish the best way that we can support you, and it will also give you the opportunity to ask lots of questions about RNC.

RNC Offer Letter

Once the assessment is complete, if we are able to offer you a place, we will confirm the full cost and proposed start date and provide this information in writing for the benefit of the authorities in your home country and any sponsors.

Because your programme will be tailored to meet your personal needs, we cannot confirm the cost before this stage, although we can provide a general indication of likely fees on request.

Three months prior to the start of your course, we will issue you with a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS).

You will be required to apply for your visa in your home country.

EHCP and Placement Funding Advice

Our Admissions team offers support and guidance to potential students, their parents, and guardians to help them navigate their way through the often complex and lengthy process of trying to secure Local Authority funding to attend RNC.

They can provide information and advice around the law relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and the associated statutory duties all Local Authorities must follow with respect to that law and its regulations.

They work with prospective students to help them identify and gather the best and most relevant evidence that will support them in their efforts and in their communications with their Local Authority. They also help them to have effective communications with their Local Authority Officers.

This support is available whether you are just starting out on your path to get a local authority educational needs assessment, are working to secure an EHCP, or you already have an EHCP.

While their main expertise lies with the funding system in England, they can still offer some degree of advice and guidance to students from Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

Together the team have many years of experience of supporting students through the process of securing and amending an EHCP and of working with local authorities to agree placements.



How to Apply

Start Looking Ahead

It's never too early to explore your options for Further Education and to gather information about the courses that will help you achieve your ambitions. Our website (www.rnc.ac.uk) has lots of information, including more detail on our academic and vocational programmes.

Visit RNC

An informal visit is by far the best way to experience what RNC has to offer. A tour of the College will allow you and your family the time and space needed to ask questions, speak to staff and students, experience our outstanding accommodation, and get a feel for campus living. You may also choose to come on one of our free Have a Go weekends, which will give you a taster of life at RNC with lots of fun and games thrown in!

Contact Your Careers Adviser

Speak to the Careers Adviser in your school or local careers centre, who will help you look into your options for post-16 education and training. One possibility is specialist residential education like that offered at RNC. Your adviser will be able to help you with making an application, but please do not hesitate to contact us for additional support and information.

Discuss Your Options

Talk through your choices with those closest to you. If you need further advice, please call our Student Enquiries team who will answer any questions or send you an application form. Alternatively, you can download an application form from our website or complete the online application form at www.rnc.ac.uk Once you have applied, our Admissions team will get in touch and support you through the process.

Funding Advice

Funding is available from your local authority for your place at RNC. The process can be long and challenging, but we have experienced staff on hand to offer advice and support throughout.

Pre-Entry Assessment

All potential students are invited for a Pre-Entry Assessment (PEA). This is a two-way process. It gives us an opportunity to get to know your strengths, interests, and support needs. It gives you an opportunity to meet staff and students and decide whether we can offer what you want. For more information on PEAs and the funding process please visit the Student Journey pages of our website: www.rnc.ac.uk.

Start Your Programme!

As you settle into life at RNC, our experienced staff are on hand to ensure you receive all the support you need while you live and study away from home.

“ Students are taught effectively by staff who are experts in teaching students with visual impairments. Staff work well with students to provide the support they need. ”

Ofsted 2024

New Student Conference

Once you have an offer of a place at RNC, you are invited to join all other new students at a weekend conference for both you and your parents or guardians. Taking place in July each year, it is a great opportunity to meet fellow new starters and familiarise yourself with your surroundings.





Student Support Services

Residential Living

On campus there are halls of residence designed to suit different age groups. Campbell Hall hosts under 18 year olds, with students aged 18 to 25 in Dowdell and Stephens Halls. Stephens Hall has a number of self contained flats. The flats have their own kitchen and living areas and provide the opportunity for you to experience an increased level of independent living.

Residential Support

Our team of Residential Support Officers and Wellbeing Support Officers provides a point of contact for students in each of the halls. They ensure that moving away from home and living more independently is a smooth and exciting process for you.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding our students' welfare, waking night staff ensure that students are safe 24/7.

Health and Wellbeing

RNC has a medical centre on site which provides the following services:

A team of registered nurses based on campus to provide daily support and advice on managing your individual healthcare needs. The nursing team can also support you to access local NHS medical provision while you are studying at RNC and will liaise with relevant parents/guardians and professionals as appropriate.

On campus we have a BACP accredited Counsellor. You can be referred for counselling via Pre-Entry Assessment, or you may access the counselling service during your time at College. The Counsellor

has long term experience of supporting young people within education and also with emotional adjustments relating to sight loss.

Meals

Lunch and evening meals are provided at the RNC Kitchen. Our bistro-style eatery offers an extensive menu and caters for all dietary requirements.

At some point you may wish to progress to a full or partial self-catered arrangement. This may be done using the shared kitchens on each floor of the halls of residence or via one of the self-contained flats in Stephens Hall.

Multi-Faith Provision

People of all faiths are welcomed to the College community. Religious and cultural support is provided, and links are established with local provision wherever possible. Students are able to access local places of worship and can discuss any individual prayer or dietary requirements with support staff.

Student Voice

Students are encouraged to be active participants in the running of the College. All students are invited to be a part of the Student Representative Group.

Representatives are nominated from the student body for the following groups:

- Safeguarding Committee
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group
- Health and Safety Committee

We also have a group of Student Ambassadors and an elected Student Governor who attends meetings of the Board of Trustees.



Student Support Services

Continued >>

Student Life

Everything we do is designed to develop your self-confidence. Building self-esteem and gaining practical experience will help you as you progress towards employment, self-employment or Further / Higher Education.

Social events and clubs are a large part of this. Whilst we provide many activities, students are also encouraged to start up their own clubs, based on their interests.

Student Bar

Alcohol is only available to those over 18, but there is a range of soft drinks for those under age or those that do not wish to drink.

Fun, sociable activities take place weekly, with student DJs, karaoke nights, games, and quizzes hosted by fellow students.

Local Shops

As well as learning routes around campus, the Mobility team will help you negotiate your way to the nearest shops, which include two convenience stores, a post office, a hairdresser and a chip shop.

Entertainment Off-Campus

Students are not restricted to the campus. The nearby city centre has a range of shops, cafés, bars, and restaurants, as well as a cinema, theatre, swimming pool, and bowling alley.

Offering the best of both worlds, there are parks close to town and the countryside is just a short walk away.

Major cities are easily accessible by train, with Cardiff, Bristol and Birmingham all less than 90 minutes away.





Additional Support

Student Ambassadors

The initial focus for student ambassadors is to help and support new students as they settle into College. Having someone who has been there and knows exactly what you are going through can really help.

Student ambassadors are trained to deal with a range of issues that you may encounter which includes things like:

- » safeguarding
- » homesickness
- » finding new friends
- » engaging with other students
- » exam stress

and much, much more to ensure you settle in as quickly as possible.

Tutor Groups

All students are assigned a tutor who will optimise their College experience. Your tutor will support and monitor your academic and personal development and encourage forward planning to ensure positive transitional outcomes.

You will be regularly supported to review and reflect on your progress and consider how to make certain your career and personal goals are met.

Tutorials are also an opportunity for group discussions related to College events, community activities, and national and worldwide current affairs.

Learning Mentors

Our Learning Mentors work closely with teachers and Heads of Learning to identify students who would benefit from some extra help. They can support you in classes and in one-to-one study support sessions to help you to develop your independence as a student.

Many students make use of Learning Mentors to:

- » help embed their new Assistive and Digital Technology skills into their subject areas.
- » support them to carry out research for their subject areas.
- » help them keep on track with assignment deadlines.
- » work on revision techniques to help prepare for assessments.
- » help set up study and revision timetables to organise their time well.
- » help them to practice assessment techniques including using a reader, scribe, or practical assistant efficiently.



Something for Everyone

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is the world's leading youth achievement award. A fun adventure and a major challenge, we offer two progressive award levels of Bronze and Silver. Physical, skill and volunteering sections can be completed within College and will help you gain new skills and enhance your CV and university applications. The expedition section takes place in the summer term, with lots of weekend and evening walks and a fun-packed camp.

RNC is a licensed centre for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which is run by experienced and qualified staff and can be adapted so is accessible for all students at RNC.

Sports

For many students, attending RNC is their first opportunity to fully participate in sports. There are a variety of activities on offer, from football to goalball, cricket to tandem cycling. Students can engage with individual or team sports in a fun and inclusive way.

Where we don't have the facilities on site, we can support you to access them locally. For example, rock climbing, swimming and athletics.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

We offer peripatetic music lessons, providing personalised instruction in a variety of instruments.

Students have previously enjoyed lessons in the clarinet, drums, guitar, harp, piano, and singing.

Learning and Leisure Options

Within your weekly timetable, there are opportunities to engage in interests that are not central to your chosen courses. You may wish to try out a new sport, indulge in the arts or learn a language. Current activities are:

- Acoustic Shooting
- Archery
- Art Club
- Choir
- French or Spanish conversation
- Gaming
- Gym
- Horticulture
- Performing Arts



thePoint4

At RNC, we strive to give our students as many opportunities as possible and our leisure facility, thePoint4, allows us to offer unique work experience here on site.

thePoint4 is a fully accessible, international standard sports centre that has hosted many large events, including the Blind Football World Championships and the Blind Football European Championships. It is open to the public, who attend exercise classes and use the gym, sports hall, and 4G pitch facilities.

Students can take advantage of these facilities for their personal use, and they also provide valuable work placement opportunities. So, if you are interested in hospitality, you can work at The Pod, our on-site café open to the public every day, giving you the chance to learn how to make barista coffee and serve customers.

For those wanting to develop customer service skills, thePoint4 reception is a busy hub with a constant stream of customers and telephone enquiries to deal with.

Students on one of our Sport and Recreation courses also have the opportunity to practise on members of the public and develop their skills. Personal trainers work with clients in the public gym and group exercise classes are run during term time by students for members and non-members alike.

Our Massage and Complementary Therapies students provide a weekly sports massage clinic, giving them valuable work experience while also contributing to thePoint4 community.

These unique opportunities offer students a chance to gain real-world experience in a safe, supported, and familiar environment.



HOME OF

thePoint 

thePoint4 



Your Future

Current Student

Sonali Shah

Eye conditions:

Familial Exudative Vitreoretinopathy

☞ I'm a third year student and I have studied a wide variety of subjects such as Audio Music Production, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and three business courses.

I have learned a lot of valuable skills from studying these subjects, for example from doing an EPQ which was about my religion, Jainism, I learnt how to Harvard reference websites, how to check their reliability, and how to lead a discussion.

From studying Audio Music Production, I learnt basics of Logic Pro and microphones. I also got the chance to compose music as well as produce covers of already existing songs with my friends. I like to sing and play the piano in my spare time.

One of the business courses I studied involved working in a real office environment, therefore doing jobs that are done in the real business world like using office equipment and taking meeting minutes.

I grow, repot, and nurture plants in the RNC garden with a couple of volunteers every week. I also check on the plants daily to see if they need feeding or watering, and do this when required. These plants are then sold to the RNC staff and students, as well as the public. During these sales, I make notes of how many plants are being sold, and how much money is being made.

I've received an unconditional offer from Birkbeck University to study a Business and Sustainability course which will enable me to pursue a career as an environmental sustainability consultant.

Being at RNC has been a life changing experience for me as I have been able to make close friends which is something I find difficult. I have achieved things that I never thought were possible like completing my EPQ due to the high level of writing. I have developed confidence and learnt to believe in myself more from having amazing teachers who believe in me. ☞





1 Year On

River Fleming

Studied:

A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, English Literature and Mathematics. Along with an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Braille.

Eye conditions:

Optic Atrophy

River is completing a degree apprenticeship within the food industry, combining practical work placements with academic studies.

“RNC allowed me to develop my academic skills whilst learning accessible technologies and adapting to a sighted world. Through the careers and transition team, I was able to develop my ideas for further education, looking at both the university application process and employment perspectives.

One of the best things about RNC is the development of independence and self-advocacy. I would recommend that future students make the most of every opportunity RNC has to offer, especially IT and Transition, as they are fundamental for the future.”



2 Years On

Chris Colbert

Studied:

Personal Training and Sport - Sports Academy member (Goalball)

Eye conditions:

Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, Nystagmus

Chris joined RNC at 16 and began pursuing a career in fitness. He worked his way through the gym-based qualifications, eventually qualifying as a personal trainer after completing the Level 3 Personal Training programme.

Chris is now working as a fitness instructor at 'Your Space' who have a range of leisure facilities across Nottinghamshire.

“I loved my time at RNC. It helped with my social skills and living skills and put me on career and sporting pathways.

Through my qualifications I gained real-world experience, working with a diverse clientele, including people with visual impairments, mobility limitations and wheelchair users. I learned how to meet and greet clients, structure fitness programmes and work in a public gym setting.

Now at work, I've built a great rapport with my customers and strive to make their fitness experience better and more fun.”



Courses

Please note, as a result of the government's vocational qualification reform, some courses may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to our website www.rnc.ac.uk/courses.

30	ASPIRE Study Programme
35	Assistive and Digital Technologies
37	Audio Media Production
38	Biology
40	Braille
43	Business
44	English
45	Extended Project (EPQ)
46	Health and Social Care
48	History
49	Home Cooking Skills
50	IT - Information Technology
53	Massage and Complementary Therapies
55	Mathematics
56	Modern Foreign Languages
57	Preparation for Higher Education
59	Psychology
60	Sociology
63	Sports Academy
65	Sports Coaching and Development
67	Sport and Recreation

ASPIRE Study Programme

(Achievement for Social, Personal and Independence, Responsibility for future Employment and/or Education)

Course Information

The RNC ASPIRE Study Programme supports visually impaired students with a variety of neurodiverse and additional needs with their educational, personal, and social development.

The programme implements personalised learning plans, linked to your EHCP, in order to meet your individual needs.

There are a number of pathways you could take, over the course of three years:

Pathway 1:

You may need time to adjust to the transition into College life but do not have GCSEs.

Pathway 2:

You may need time to establish your next steps in terms of life, living in the community, and education.

Pathway 3:

A springboard to develop core interpersonal skills in order to support and progress towards a Level 2 vocational programme area.

Some of the activities you may complete within the ASPIRE programme are:

- sharing a hobby or interest with others within practical, work-based skills sessions.
- completing a performance to deliver internally or externally to a chosen audience, either face-to-face or online.

- research volunteering organisations and take an active role in a volunteering event which will make a positive impact on the community.
- studying children and young people and engaging with work experience activities to develop confidence in this area. Taking part in VI awareness events and research to share knowledge with local communities such as local and national primary schools, FE colleges, universities, and residential homes.
- on-site catering practice, both in the student Bistro and the public Coffee Pod (front of house duties, selling products, and engaging in customer service practice).
- arts and crafts activities, making products to sell or showcase both internally/externally.
- working within a gym environment (dealing with clients, upholding health and safety practices).
- business office activities, that include practical office work within our RNC Working Office (photocopying, ring-binding, shredding, portfolio collation, stationery orders, and meeting staff requests, creating presentations and visual displays; supporting internal and external events).
- gardening projects such as working in the polytunnel to support in-house enterprises.

All of these opportunities will embed vital core skills such as Functional English and Mathematics and communication and problem-solving skills.



ASPIRE Study Programme

Continued >>

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level

You will study towards Pearson BTEC introductory qualifications at Award, Certificate, or Diploma level.

You will have the opportunity to undertake a Certificate in Vocational Studies in the first year.

Dependent upon whether you complete an Award, Certificate, or Diploma in Vocational Studies, you will undertake mandatory units in:

- Developing a Personal Progression Plan
- Being Organised
- Working as a Team
- Research a Topic

You may also have the opportunity to study subject sector areas including Art and Design, Business, Caring for Children, Creative Digital Media, IT, Performing Arts, and Sport.

From 2025 you will study a Level 1 BTEC in Personal Growth and Wellbeing.

Units can be selected by staff and students based upon their individual needs and cover topics such as:

- Improving Physical Health
- Role of Relationships
- Sexual Health
- Understanding Emotional Wellbeing
- Developing Resilience

Duration of programme

1-3 years

Entry

There are no formal entry requirements for this course but suitability will be discussed at your Pre-Entry Assessment.

Progression Opportunities

In Year 2, you will study a Certificate in your chosen sector area, such as Business. In Year 3 you will study a Diploma in your chosen sector area, or you may progress to a Level 2 vocational programme area.

You will be encouraged to progress towards a regular work-based learning placement, either internally or externally, in your second year.

Upon completing the ASPIRE course and having explored your interests and potential with support from specialist staff at RNC, you could move into paid, supported or voluntary work, and/or independent living in your home area.





Assistive and Digital Technologies

Course Breakdown

Overview:

Our aim is to ensure that you can use technology to improve your independence and your employment opportunities. All students are provided with bespoke assistive and digital technologies provision.

We know that your experiences of using technology are likely to be different and we want to enable you to build on your skills to ensure that you can access your course and develop skills for your future.

We encourage you to use assistive technology, including Braille displays, screen readers and/or large print.

Duration of programme:

Assistive and Digital Technologies provision is encouraged for the duration of your time at RNC.

Entry Requirements:

During your Pre-Entry Assessment we will work with you to identify the skills you currently have and the areas where you may need to develop to enable you to achieve an independent working medium using technology.

Course Information

As a Microsoft Centre we encourage the use of Windows devices and provide you with a laptop for the duration of your studies. The laptop is installed with your preferred assistive technology (*Fusion, JAWS, ZoomText, SuperNova* or *NVDA*).

If your preferred working medium is Braille, you will be encouraged to use a Braille display with your laptop so that you are able to have the benefit of accessing both the screen reader and Braille output.

In the first year of your Assistive and Digital Technologies programme, you will be guided through our bespoke RNC Skills Profiling curriculum to ensure that you have the skills for your main areas of study.

You will develop skills in many of the Microsoft Office applications using your preferred assistive technology. We also support skills development using Apple iOS software where appropriate or requested.

You will develop skills in how to present visually appealing documents and check the accessibility of them. You will be able to access, edit, format, check, and share a range of file types.

Our Skills Profiles are grouped depending on difficulty, and they provide a structured sequence of small-steps for progression. The three stages are: *Essential, Intermediate, and Advanced*.

The Essential elements will ensure you have the skills to independently access your programme of study and the Intermediate and Advanced elements expand your knowledge and ensure that you have digital skills for your next steps, whether that be continued education or employment.



Audio Media Production

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

RSL Level 2 Extended Certificate /
Diploma in the Creative Music Industry

RSL Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary
Diploma in the Creative Music Industry

Duration of programme:

1-2 years for RSL Level 2

2 years for RSL Level 3

Entry Requirements:

A passion for creating and producing music using industry standard hardware and software packages.

Level 2 must have a good level of literacy for written material.

Level 3 qualifications require 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above. These must include English and Mathematics.

Course Information

Our Audio Music Production courses cover a range of skills that could help to prepare you for a variety of Music Industry roles. Through practical projects you can explore sound engineering, music composition, production, and sound design.

Throughout each course you will gain the skills you need to be able to use professional audio equipment, both traditional and modern, giving you the opportunity to experience applying those skills creatively in a variety of different situations. Working with other people as part of a team, communicating with musicians and performers, working to deadlines, gaining technical skills, and building a portfolio of work are all essential parts of a career in this industry.

The courses are employment-focused and work-based learning is an important element in the Level 3 timetable, along with teaching sessions that are delivered in classrooms equipped with professional digital audio software and hardware.

Evidence for the qualification will be presented through a portfolio of work, which you will keep updated with audio clips, pictures, video, and written evaluations of what you have done.

Progression Opportunities

RSL Level 2 students may progress onto a Level 3 course or into employment.

After studying RSL Level 3, you may go on to study Audio Production at university, enter employment, or choose an apprenticeship, for example, the BBC Apprenticeship Scheme.

Biology

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level

AS Level (Level 3)
A Level (Level 3) plus
Practical Endorsement

Duration of programme

1 year for AS Level
2 years for A Level

AS and A Level are separate qualifications but are taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

The Practical Endorsement is assessed separately to the A Level and this is done during lesson time.

Entry Requirements

You should have 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above including Mathematics (higher level paper at grade 5 or above) and Science (at grade 6 or above).

Course Information

The course is divided into topics, where each one covers a key concept of Biology. You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other.

The AS and A Level Year 1 for OCR Biology cover the same modules:

- Development of Practical Skills in Biology
- Foundations in Biology
- Exchange and Transport
- Biodiversity, Evolution and Disease

In Year 2 (A Level only), the Year 1 subjects are reviewed and further modules are studied:

- Communication, Homeostasis and Energy
- Genetics and Ecosystems

Please note, at least 10% of the examinations are Mathematics-based questions at a level higher than GCSE.

Progression Opportunities

A Level students may go on to Higher Education, often studying Biology or other sciences, progressing into employment or research-based higher levels of study.



Braille

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level

We are proud to be the only organisation in the UK to offer accredited BTEC qualifications in Braille.

BTEC Level 1 in Uncontracted Braille for Touch or Sight Readers

BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Contracted Braille for Touch or Sight Readers

BTEC Level 3 Award in Applied Contracted Braille for Touch or Sight Readers

Please note, these are recognised BTEC qualifications, however, they are not regulated by Ofqual or any other regulatory body.

Duration of programme

BTEC Levels 1 and 2 - dependent upon qualification and individual ability.

BTEC Level 3 - one academic year.

Entry Requirements

Level 1 (Uncontracted)

No previous knowledge of Braille is required.

Level 2 (Contracted)

You will need to be able to read and write uncontracted Braille.

Level 3

Successful completion of a timed entry assessment.

Course Information

Level 1: Intended for the beginner Brailist, you will learn to read and write the alphabet, full stop, capital letter sign, and numbers (using a Perkins Braille) and be able to produce Braille labels to support independence. Assessment is by untimed, evidence-based tasks.

Level 2: Ideal for those wishing to efficiently use Braille in their everyday life and for those who want to advance to using Braille technology. This course qualifies you to read and write contracted Braille - delivered in manageable chunks and evaluated with untimed, evidence-based assessments.

Level 3: You will become familiar with the more complex rules that govern the contracted Braille code. You will practice the correct application of these rules and focus on developing your proofreading skills as well as evidencing your ability to produce accurate, correctly formatted written work. Level 3 is portfolio-based and assessed by a timed examination at the end of the academic year.

Progression Opportunities

Learning Braille is an essential skill for those with visual impairment or a deteriorating eye condition. Being a capable Brailist restores confidence and self-esteem by providing an alternative and/or additional reading, writing, and study medium.

Braille enhances independence when progressing to Higher Education or future employment, empowering people with a visual impairment to compete and succeed in a sighted world.





The course specification for this subject is likely to change, please visit www.rnc.ac.uk/courses for the most up to date information

Business

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Award / Certificate / Diploma

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate / Extended Certificate / Foundation Diploma

The Level 3 qualification is modular and completed in units that make up full qualifications:

- Certificate (2 units)
- Extended Certificate (5 units)
- Foundation Diploma (8 units)

Duration of programme:

1-3 years

Entry Requirements:

To study Level 3, you will require 4 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, or a Level 2 Business or related qualification at Level 2, plus a desire to learn more about the business world and working in it.

Course Information

You will learn about working in an organisation's business function, such as finance, marketing, sales, legal, IT support, human resources, administration, logistics, and operations.

Current units include:

- The Business Environment
- Working in Business
- Business Decisions
- Customers and Communication
- Marketing and Market Research
- Accounting Concepts
- Principles of Project Management
- Responsible Business Practices
- Business Events

Progression Opportunities

Many students go onto Higher Education to complete degrees with a business and/or management element. Recent degree courses by RNC alumni include Business and Management, Business and Chinese, Event Management, Travel and Tourism, and Business and Management (HR).

Other students go directly into employment or self-employment. There are many potential employment fields, with progression pathways of former students often beginning at graduate trainee level and moving on to roles such as Finance Officer, Equalities and Diversity Manager, HR Assistant or HR Manager, and Director of your own company.

English

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

GCSE English Language (Level 2)
AS Level English Literature (Level 3)
A Level English Literature (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1-2 years for GCSE
1 year for AS Level
2 years for A Level

Entry Requirements:

For GCSE, a grade 3 in English is preferable, together with an internal assessment that shows that you are working at the appropriate level.

For AS and A Level, 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above are normally required; these should include Mathematics and English Language. A grade 5 or above is required in GCSE English Literature and English Language in order to embark on an AS or A Level course.

Course Information

GCSE is entirely assessed by examination. There is a speaking and listening component that, although compulsory, does not contribute to the final grade. You will study a range of texts of different types and genres, but the examination is entirely skills-based; there are no 'set texts' that you have to answer questions on.

The main subject for AS and Year 1 of A Level English Literature will be 'Love Through the Ages', covering Shakespeare, poetry and prose.

The main topic for Year 2 of A Level will be 'World War One and its Aftermath', exploring literature arising out of the Great War and extending this period to allow reflection on the full impact of the war that reverberates up to the present day. The A Level also includes a coursework element that gives you a wide choice of texts to write a comparative critical study across a theme of your choice.

Progression Opportunities

The GCSE qualification is a gateway to employment and to further academic study. Most universities will insist on a grade 4 in GCSE English.

After studying A Level English Literature, most students go on to Higher Education. A Level English Literature is highly valued by universities and can enable entry onto a range of subjects. Careers include researcher, digital copywriter, journalist, and school teacher.

Extended Project (EPQ)

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

50% of an A Level (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

Two Terms: Projects are usually completed by the end of the spring term (before Easter).

Entry Requirements:

Appropriate IT skills and (usually) previous successful experience on a Level 3 programme. Most students undertake this course in their second or third year.

Course Information

There is a taught element at the start of the course which covers project management and relevant study skills, after which you will choose a topic, task, and title. The task may be a dissertation, a report or investigation, the production of an artefact, or organising an event. You will work at your own pace and are strongly encouraged to choose a project that aligns with your personal interests.

As well as completing the task, you will give a formal presentation on your project and present a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates the skills you have developed in planning, research, decision-making, evaluation, and review.

Progression Opportunities

The Extended Project Qualification is valued by employers and most universities. Talking or writing effectively about the project provides 'stand out from the crowd' material, which may improve a personal statement related to a job or university application.

The Level 3 EPQ is equivalent to half of a full A Level. Under the new UCAS tariff, this means that it carries more points than an AS (which is only 40% of a full A Level).

It is a helpful qualification for future entrepreneurs and business owners.

Some previous projects include the creation of an anniversary flowerbed, a charity hair chop, a video on partially sighted futsal, a marathon run, and creating a College tuck shop.



Health and Social Care

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate/
Extended Certificate

Duration of programme:

1 year for Certificate

2 years for Extended Certificate

Entry Requirements:

Usually GCSE English Language, GCSE Mathematics, and at least two other GCSEs at grade 4, preferably including Science. Functional Skills Level 2 will be considered. It would be advantageous to have completed an OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care or an OCR Level 1 or 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care.

Course Information

The certificate is an Applied General qualification, which means it is equivalent to half an A Level. Taking the Certificate would give you an introduction to the health and social care sector and would support other vocational and academic qualifications with a view to progress to Higher Education or further study.

To achieve the qualification you must complete three mandatory units:

- Building Positive Relationships in Health and Social Care
- Equality, Diversity and Rights in Health and Social Care
- Health, Safety and Security in Health and Social Care

The Extended Certificate is equivalent to a full A Level. To achieve the qualification, in addition to the above three mandatory units, you will need to complete the following units:

- Anatomy and Physiology for Health and Social Care
- Nutrition for Health
- Supporting People with Mental Health Conditions

Progression Opportunities

To achieve the full A Level equivalent, students who successfully complete the Certificate course will be given the opportunity to progress to Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care. This qualification will provide you with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to progress into Higher Education on a health and social care-related programme such as Health and Social Care, Nursing, Social Work or Early Childhood Studies.



The course specification for this subject is likely to change, please visit www.rnc.ac.uk/courses for the most up to date information

History

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

AS Level History (Level 3)

A Level History (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1 year for AS Level

2 years for A Level

AS and A Level are separate qualifications but are taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

Entry Requirements:

For AS and A Level History, 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above are normally required; these should include Mathematics and English Language, although a grade 5 or above is strongly recommended in GCSE History and English Literature or Language in order to embark on an AS or A Level course.

There will also be an internal assessment to ensure that you are working at the appropriate level. However, your individual circumstances can be discussed at your Pre-Entry Assessment.

You will only be able to join us for the second year of A Level if you have studied AS units which are identical to the ones we offer.

Course Information

Studying History will help you understand the significance of historical events, the role of individuals in history, and the nature of change over time. The course covers two engaging periods of history. British History delves into The Tudors, while non-British History takes you through Democracy and Nazism: Germany 1918-1945. These units carry across both AS and the second year of A Level.

At the end of the AS year, if you are continuing with the full A Level, you will get teacher support and advice from the exam board on identifying a topic that you can research and study independently.

Progression Opportunities

After studying A Level History, students may go on to Higher Education to study degrees in History or other humanities subjects, or you may choose from a wide range of other disciplines including Journalism, Politics, International Relations, American Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology.

Studying History provides a wide range of employment opportunities. Future careers may include work in museums and libraries, law, or the civil service, or as a researcher or political assistant to an MP.

Home Cooking Skills

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

BTEC Level 1 Award (one unit with a value of four credits)

BTEC Level 2 Award (one unit with a value of six credits)

Duration of programme:

7-8 months (approximately two terms).

Entry Requirements:

An ability to carry out a range of basic food preparation and cooking tasks. These skills are usually established on the Independent Living Skills programme undertaken during your first year at RNC.

Course Information

The Level 1 and Level 2 Awards in the Home Cooking Skills course have been designed to give you the opportunity to develop:

- the knowledge, understanding, and confidence to cook meals at home.
- an understanding of how to work more efficiently when cooking a meal.
- an ability to transfer skills to different recipes.
- an understanding of safe food handling and hygiene practices that are relevant to catering.

Usually undertaken in your second and/or third year, the course is delivered in our teaching kitchen, which allows you to work individually in your own kitchen bay under the supervision of specialist teaching staff.

Progression Opportunities

As well as the option to transfer your skills and knowledge from the classroom to one of a number of self-catering options in halls, you will also be able to take what you learn in this course away from campus and use it wherever you go. This can include cooking for yourself at home or at university, making sure you have a healthy, balanced diet, and/or cooking tasty meals for your friends and family.



IT - Information Technology

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

OCR Level 2 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Information Technology - Digital Administrator

OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Information and Communication Technology

Duration of programme:

1 year (Level 2)

1-3 years (Level 3)

Entry Requirements:

Level 2: You will be working towards Level 1/Level 2 in Mathematics and English and have an interest in IT.

Level 3: You will have 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including Mathematics and English.

Course Information

For all levels, unit results are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction*.

Level 2 offers a mixture of practical assignments and on-screen tests, which include Using Emerging Technologies, Essentials of Cyber Security, and Using Data Analysis Software.

Level 3 offers a mixture of mandatory and optional units. For example, you may choose Mobile Technology, Computer Software, Internet of Everything, IT Technical Support, and Computer Systems - Hardware.

Progression Opportunities

Level 2 students may continue onto the Level 3 course or progress to an IT apprenticeship.

The Level 3 course provides an excellent start to a career or advanced-level apprenticeship in the Information Technology sector, in roles such as Support Technician, Service Analyst, Software Developer and Accessibility Officer.

Level 3 students may also go on to Higher Education to complete degrees in IT or a related discipline, such as Computer Science, Software Engineering, Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing, etc.



A young woman with dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt with the RNC logo, is smiling and performing a massage on a person's back. The person being massaged is lying face down. The woman's hands are on the person's back, and she appears to be using a massage technique. The background is a softly lit room with a window in the distance.

A Level 2 qualification in this subject may be added in the future, please visit www.rnc.ac.uk/courses for the most up to date information.

Massage and Complementary Therapies

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

iTEC Level 3

Duration of programme:

1-3 years

Entry Requirements:

There are no formal entry requirements, although a minimum of a Level 2 qualification would be expected for this course. An interest in people, your own health, and personal growth are essential, along with self-motivation, good communication skills, a caring nature, and a good level of fitness. Good basic computer skills are needed for this course.

There will be an internal assessment to ensure that you are working at the appropriate level for this course, and your individual circumstances can be discussed at your Pre-Entry Assessment.

Course Information

Mandatory units are:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Holistic Massage
- Business

There are also optional disciplines which you can choose to study depending on your abilities and interests:

- Aromatherapy
- Sports Massage
- Reflexology
- Indian Head Massage
- On-site Chair Massage

You will have weekly practical experience, providing massages to members of the public during open clinics and sessions by appointment.

You will also have the opportunity to attend events to gain experience of massaging a range of people. These may include running and cycling races, pamper days for the community, and corporate clinics. Working with various charities, notably those for people with different conditions, provides you with a range of learning experiences to develop transferable skills.

Progression Opportunities

Many of our students go into employment, working in health spas and fitness centres. Self-employment as a massage therapist is a popular career path, which includes building a client base, utilising business skills for self-promotion, and gaining membership of a professional body.



Mathematics

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

Award in Number and Measure (Level 2)
GCSE (Level 2)
AS Level (Level 3)
A Level (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1 year for GCSE or other Level 2 courses
1 year for AS Level
2 years for A Level

The AS and A Level are separate qualifications but are taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

Entry Requirements:

For GCSE, a grade 3 in GCSE Mathematics is preferable, together with an internal assessment that shows you are working at the appropriate level.

For AS and A Level, GCSE Mathematics at grade 7 or above is normally required, together with four other GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above; these should include English Language. There will also be an internal assessment to ensure that you are working at the appropriate level. If you have a grade 6 at GCSE and want to study AS/A Level Mathematics, you will be advised on an individual basis.

Course Information

GCSE Mathematics covers data handling, number and algebra, and shape and space

AS and A Level Mathematics are traditional mathematics courses which build on your understanding of higher-tier GCSE concepts.

You will study both Pure and Applied Mathematics, including Mechanics and Statistics. Pure Mathematics covers topics such as Algebra and Geometry; Applied Mathematics explores how mathematics can be used to solve real-world problems.

Progression Opportunities

A GCSE qualification is a gateway to employment and to further academic study. Most universities will insist on a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

After studying A Level Mathematics, most students go on to Higher Education. Mathematics is often considered the 'Queen of the Sciences' and is highly favoured by universities, particularly in relation to any science-based subject; many top universities require it for degrees in Computing and IT.

There are many openings for mathematicians in industry and services. Potential career paths include: Actuarial Science, Business Analyst, Software Engineer, Technology Analyst, Information Engineer, Speech Technology Researcher, and Data Scientist.

Modern Foreign Languages

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

AS Level (Level 3)

A Level (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1 year for AS Level

2 years for A Level

AS and A Level are separate qualifications but are taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

Progression Opportunities

Having a foreign language gives you a big advantage when it comes to applying for jobs. Many companies now say that they prefer staff to be able to speak more than one language.

The language skills you learn at RNC will equip you to work in a range of professional workplaces.

Language A Levels will also prepare you for Higher Education if you choose to continue your studies at university.

Course Information

Offering three options (French, German, and Spanish), the Modern Foreign Language courses follow the same syllabus and offer the same chance to excel in your chosen language (or languages).

The AS and A Level syllabuses include culture, current affairs, and ethical issues such as immigration, crime, politics, and religious beliefs, as well as developing your language skills.

You will also study film at AS Level and both film and literature at A Level, giving you an insight into the culture of your chosen language.

Overseas Partnerships and Trips

With our partner, Cité Scolaire René Pellet in Villeurbanne, Lyon, regular exchange visits to France are organised and places on the trip are prioritised for language students.

An exchange offers you the chance to explore a new culture as well as practise the language. Students often stay in contact with their French peers via email and social media.

We have links with Nikolauspflge school in Stuttgart. We organise regular trips to Germany, the most recent being to Berlin, offering students a chance to explore culture and history and to practise their language skills. Places on trips to Germany are prioritised for students of German and A Level History.

RNC is developing a partnership with ONCE (Organización Nacional de Ciegos Españoles), which has bases in the Spanish cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, Santander, and Pontevedra. You may also have the opportunity to visit Galicia, with the chance to explore a new culture as well as practising your Spanish language skills.

Preparation for Higher Education

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

Level 3

Duration of programme:

1 year

Entry Requirements:

Level 3 qualifications for those planning to go on to university.

Progression Opportunities

By the end of your placement, you will have achieved a level of independence in Mobility and Independent Living Skills appropriate to your ambitions, age, and future plans for adult life and be able to transfer these skills to less structured and unfamiliar environments in preparation for transition to Higher Education.

Course Information

If you have achieved Level 3 qualifications but require further support to be independent and successful in the next step of your life, this one-year course will equip you with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to address the needs of independent study and independent living on your transition to Higher Education.

You will be provided with a personalised programme to meet your specific individual needs. Here is an example of what your programme could look like:

- Level 3 Extended Project Qualification
- Further Level 3/A Level subject of choice
- Work placement related to proposed career path
- IT Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Mobility
- Higher Education support
- Career development and transition support
- Tutorial
- Extracurricular activities

This programme will not only provide knowledge and skills at a suitable level but also further Level 3 qualifications and UCAS points to enhance the opportunities of progression on to a wide range of universities.

The team provides valuable support and advice for completing application forms, including the UCAS form, helps secure funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), and also facilitates college and university visits to allow students to make informed decisions.

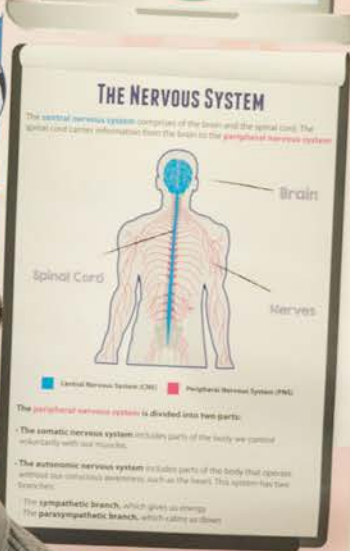


Disadvantages: A lack of ecological validity occurs when people are not in their natural environments, their behaviour may not reflect real life.
Participant observation: Observers have direct contact with the people they are observing by becoming members of the group.
Advantages: Observers can gain a more in-depth knowledge of the behaviour of participants.
Disadvantages: It is very time-consuming and researchers may feel awkward if they become too involved with the group they are studying.

Case Studies
A case study is an in-depth investigation of an individual, group, event or community. The researcher collects data through interviews, observation, psychological experiments or examination of documents and records.
Strengths: Case studies provide a lot of detailed data and have high internal and ecological validity.
They allow researchers to investigate areas that could not be researched in laboratories.
Weaknesses: The results can be generalised to the wider population as they only relate to one individual.
The researchers' own subjective feelings may influence the way they study, making it not evenly balanced.

Correlations
A correlational study involves measuring two variables and trying to determine if there is a positive or negative relationship between them.
Correlations: An increase in one variable is associated with an increase in another.
A negative correlation: An increase in one variable is associated with a decrease in another.
No correlation: There is no relationship at all between the two variables.
Strengths: Correlations are useful for making predictions about the effect of one variable on another.
Correlations can also show the strength of a relationship between two variables.
Weaknesses: They only show that a relationship exists, they cannot help establish cause and effect relationships.
There may be other confounding variables that affect the results.

STRESS
Stress is the response that occurs when we think we can't cope with the pressures in our environment.
Events that trigger the stress response can be:
- Physical (e.g. divorce, bereavement, moving house)
- Psychological (e.g. mistaking objects, snafus)
- Environmental (e.g. high pressure role, lack of control)
- Personal (e.g. overcrowding, noise)
Stressors do not produce the same response in everyone, it is an individual's perceptions of the stressor.



WEAKNESSES
- Natural effects: the approach doesn't take into account environment, childhood experiences or other factors.
- Not used for unethical behaviour, individuals may not be able to give informed consent for their actions.

STRENGTHS
- Free will: emphasises the importance of studying the individual, it acknowledges individual differences.
- It fits with society's view that people should accept responsibility for their actions and makes us feel proud of what they have done.
- It encourages people to accept blame for harmful things and take responsibility for helping themselves which has a positive impact on the effectiveness of the intervention.

LIMITATIONS
- Free will is subjective.
- It is impossible to be objective, bias is very likely to occur.
- Very few people are responsible for their actions.

Determinism
Determinism is the view that human behaviour is determined by the environment and is not under the control of the individual. It is controlled by internal or external forces. Determinism believes that every action has a cause and that behaviour is predictable. Most approaches in psychology are determined to an extent.

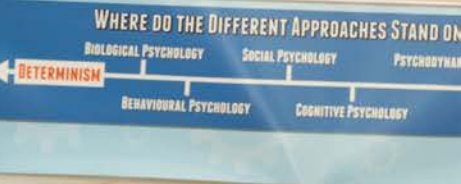
Internal (environmental) determinism: This is the view that behaviour is controlled by events in the external environment such as genetic influences.
External (biological) determinism: This is the view that behaviour is controlled by internal biological processes such as the nervous system.

Psycho-physical determinism: According to Freud, behaviour is determined by early childhood events and unconscious thought processes.
Hard and Soft Determinism:
Hard determinism: Determination has to be absolute and that all behaviour is controlled by strict laws.
Soft determinism: Determination has to be probabilistic and that all behaviour is controlled by strict laws.
1. Neurochemical influences (e.g. 5-HT)
2. Early experiences (e.g. attachment)
3. Early behaviour (e.g. reinforcement)

Soft determinism: In this view, the concept of behaviour is a causal chain of events that can be traced back to a single cause. Soft determinism is more willing to accept deterministic findings because they are based on facts and reliable research.

STRENGTHS
- Determinism is scientific and allows cause and effect explanations to be made.
- It isolates variables to make them easier to measure.
- Society is more willing to accept deterministic findings because they are based on facts and reliable research.

LIMITATIONS
- Determinism is reductionist as it does not account for individual differences.
- Determinism is deterministic and not more actual, according to it, people are responsible for their actions.



Psychology

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

AS Level (Level 3)

A Level (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1 year for AS Level

2 years for A Level

The AS and A Level are separate qualifications but taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

Entry Requirements:

5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above are normally required; these should include Mathematics and English Language.

Course Information

The Psychology syllabus provides a stimulating and fascinating mix of subject areas. You will learn to develop skills that are valued by both Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking, and research.

AS Level modules include:

Social Influence, Memory, and Attachment
(Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology)

Approaches in Psychology, Psychopathology, and Research Methods
(Paper 2 - Psychology in Context)

A2 Level modules include:

Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, and Psychopathology
(Paper 1 - Introductory Topics in Psychology)

Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology, and Research Methods
(Paper 2 - Psychology in Context)

Issues and Debates, Schizophrenia, Cognition and Development, and Forensic Psychology
(Paper 3 - Issues, Debates and Options in Psychology)

Progression Opportunities

Most A Level students go on to Higher Education, often studying Psychology or other social sciences and humanities subjects.

Psychology can lead to a career in research (through a Masters or PhD), or as an Educational Psychologist or Teacher. Other career choices may include counselling, occupational therapy, or social care work.

Sociology

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

AS Level (Level 3)
A Level (Level 3)

Duration of programme:

1 year for AS Level
2 years for A Level

AS and A Level are separate qualifications but are taught alongside each other for the first year. This gives AS students the opportunity to switch to the full A Level if they are ready.

Entry Requirements:

You should have 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grade C (grade 4) or above; these should include English Language and Maths.

Course Information

Sociology develops a range of key skills, such as presenting a rational argument on an emotive topic and applying complex theories to everyday life. You will be able to place UK society within its global context as well as understand the significance of conflict and consensus, social structure and social action, and the role of values.

AS and A Level Year 1 modules include:

Education, Research Methods, and Methods in Context
(Paper 1 - Education with Methods in Context)

Families and Households
(Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology)

In Year 2 (A Level only), you will study:

Education, Methods in Context, and Theory and Methods
(Paper 1 - Education with Theories and Methods)

Families and Households and The Media
(Paper 2 - Topics in Sociology)

Crime and Deviance and Theory and Methods
(Paper 3 - Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods)

Progression Opportunities

Many students will go on to study degrees such as Sociology, Criminology, Politics, Philosophy and Ethics, Media Studies, and Journalism. Depending on the combination with other A Levels, others go on to study Psychology or Counselling.

The understanding Sociology gives about the workings of society, including demographics and social injustice, often leads people to careers in social and caring professions. Jobs such as journalism, social work, counselling, and teaching are all possible future directions.





**DUAL CAREER
ACCREDITED**
tass 

RNC was awarded **TASS Dual Career Accreditation** in 2021. This award highlights our commitment to providing exceptional support for visually impaired athletes who are striving to excel in both their sport and their academic studies.

As a TASS-accredited institution, we offer flexible learning arrangements, specialised support services, and opportunities for athletes to connect with other talented individuals in the sporting world.

Sports Academy

Course Breakdown

Duration of programme:

1-3 years

The UK's only VI Sports Academy is designed to meet the needs of students who have aspirations to progress in their chosen sport. Sessions are flexible to fit in alongside your individualised academic/vocational timetable. You will receive between one and ten hours of Sports Academy sessions per week, depending on your timetable and mixture of lessons and sports.

Entry Requirements:

There are no formal entry requirements. Previous playing experience is preferable but this depends on the individual, the chosen sport and the chosen level. This can be discussed at your Pre-Entry Assessment. Enthusiasm and willingness to learn are essential for anyone wanting to join the RNC Sports Academy. There are recreational opportunities to play, both internally at RNC and at weekend tournaments, for novice players who may not have played sport before.

Progression Opportunities

Successful students have gone on to represent their country in their chosen sport, for example Goalball and Blind Football, Judo and Skiing, with some achieving a professional career.

Course Information

The main sports we offer are Goalball, Football, Judo, and Partially Sighted Futsal. We also deliver a range of other sports on a recreational level, including, Cricket, Cycling, Golf and Tennis, depending on individual requirements.

For full RNC Sports Academy members, we tailor sport-specific programmes and will encourage you to train like a professional athlete. As well as practising your chosen sport, your timetable will include receiving guidance around strength and conditioning, nutrition, lifestyle, and injury and rehabilitation management.

We have also had students undertaking different disciplines, including Skiing, Athletics, Swimming, and Climbing. Our sports coaches provide support for personal development to complement your training and will link you up with local sports clubs in order for you to access your specific sport.

The RNC Sports Academy works alongside a number of key partners in disability sport including the Football Association (FA), Goalball UK, the British Judo Association, British Blind Sport (BBS), VICTA, and Guide Dogs UK. These links have been instrumental in our success, allowing unique access for our students to train alongside other elite athletes and by working closely with national team coaches.

We have a number of Sport England's Talented Athletes Scholarship Scheme (TASS) students, nominated by their national governing bodies, and are proud to be the only Further Education college to have achieved TASS delivery site (TDS) status. The Scheme helps athletes in education to get the best from their sporting and academic careers, focusing on five key elements which include lifestyle support, nutrition, sports psychology, physiotherapy, and strength and conditioning sessions.

A Level 2 qualification in this subject may be added in the future, please visit www.rnc.ac.uk/courses for the most up to date information.

64



Sports Coaching and Development

Course Breakdown

Qualification Level:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sports Coaching

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development

Duration of programme

1–3 years. The Sports Academy (Sports Coaching and Development qualification) is accessible to every RNC student; sessions are flexible to fit in alongside your individualised academic/vocational timetable. Sports Coaching and Development students receive up to 10 hours of Sports Coaching and Development sessions per week, depending on the individual student. In addition, you can also access practical Sports Academy lessons which are tailored around your individualised academic timetable and alongside others from your chosen sport.

Entry Requirements:

The most important thing you need in order to undertake this qualification is an enquiring mind, an interest in the sport and active leisure industry, a willingness to explore new ideas, and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

It is not a requirement for you to have previously completed a sport-specific qualification, but it would be appropriate for you to have previously demonstrated the ability to effectively manage and work at Level 3.

Course Information

This course has been developed in consultation with employers and professional bodies. This is a career-focused qualification with industry endorsement and accreditation. It will enable you to develop underpinning knowledge and technical skills and to gain experience as an assistant coach.

For the **Extended Certificate in Sports Coaching**, you will study three mandatory units:

- Careers in the Sports and Active Leisure Industry
- Health, Wellbeing, and Sport
- Developing Coaching Skills

For the **Foundation Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development**, you will study three mandatory units:

- Sport Development
- Self-Employment in Sport and Physical Activity
- Anatomy and Physiology in Sport

This mandatory content allows you to develop your technical coaching skills, supported by underpinning knowledge, and provides the opportunity for you to relate these to the sports coaching industry.

Progression Opportunities

These qualifications have a primary focus on progressing to employment, but it might also be taken alongside other vocational qualifications or A Levels to provide a route to Higher Education. You could progress to degree programmes such as a BA(Hons) in Sports Coaching and Development or a BA(Hons) in Sports Management.



Sport and Recreation

Course Information

As a Sport and Recreation student, you will gain real experience of running the student gym and have responsibilities that will include meeting and greeting clients, setting up and taking down fitness classes, structuring a fitness session, components of warming up and cooling down, programme designing, and cleaning and maintenance. You will have the opportunity to lead exercise classes for your peers. These experiences will be used as case studies to enhance your understanding. The qualifications available are:

Active IQ Level 1 Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity, which gives you an understanding of the fitness industry by gaining knowledge of anatomy and physiology, CV writing, preparing for interview, understanding healthy eating, and developing self.

Active IQ Level 2 Certificate in Gym Instructing, which develops knowledge and skills of safe and effective workouts, delivering group gym inductions, understanding health and safety, and developing professional skills.

Active IQ Level 3 Diploma in Personal Training, which equips you to deliver one-to-one sessions with clients, create exercise plans, understand nutrition on a higher level, and create a business plan.

You may also have the opportunity to undertake additional specialist training in:

Instructing Kettlebells, which trains students who already have knowledge and skills in fitness instruction, to a professionally competent level to plan and deliver safe and effective kettlebell exercises and training sessions.

Studio Cycling, which offers fitness instruction to a professionally competent level to plan and deliver safe and effective group cycling sessions.

Instructing Suspended Movement Training, which teaches you to plan and deliver safe and effective suspended movement exercises and training sessions.

Course Breakdown

You can begin your fitness career at Level 1, where you will acquire valuable skills for the fitness industry and have the opportunity to progress to Level 2. If you already possess relevant qualifications, you can enrol directly to Level 2.

Upon completing Level 2, you can enter the workforce or further specialise. You can also advance to Level 3 Personal Training, a natural progression from your role as a fitness instructor.

Obtaining multiple qualifications enhances your employability and earning potential within the health and fitness industry.

Entry Requirements:

As a minimum, you will have an interest in fitness and health. Some experience within the industry would be an advantage.

For Levels 2 and 3, you will have GCSE English at grades 3-2 or possess Level 1 Key Skills Literacy, Numeracy, and Communication.

Progression Opportunities

Many of our students find employment in a variety of settings, including leisure centres, health spas, fitness studios, and gyms. Self-employment as a personal trainer is also a popular career path.

Get in Touch

You will have lots of questions but please don't be afraid to get in touch; we are here to help you.

For further information, please contact our Student Enquiries team on 01432 376 621, email info@rnc.ac.uk or visit our website at www.rnc.ac.uk

Situated in the West Midlands and just 15 miles from the border with Wales, you will find us at:

The Royal National College for the Blind
Venns Lane
Hereford
HR1 1DT

Stay connected!

Subscribe to our termly newsletter



Want to be the first to know about exciting events, inspiring stories, and the latest news from The Royal National College for the Blind? Our digital newsletter will keep you connected to our vibrant community. Discover:

- Upcoming events and activities
- Student and staff achievements
- College news and updates
- Opportunities to get involved

Scan the QR code and subscribe today!

Follow us on social media



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

RNC welcomes a diverse population of students and staff. We aim to ensure that our college environment is free from prejudice and harassment. In all aspects of delivery and employment, no individual or group will be discriminated against on the grounds of gender, marital status, gender reassignment, age, disability, race, religion and belief or sexual orientation.

For further information on our policies on Equal Opportunities and Diversity, please contact us or visit our website: www.rnc.ac.uk

This prospectus is available in Braille and large print formats. Please contact our Student Enquiries line on 01432 376 621 to request a copy.

The information provided is correct at the time of going to print.

RNC Copyright 2025



The Royal National College for the Blind
Venns Lane
Hereford
HR1 1DT

Tel: 01432 376 621
Email: info@rnc.ac.uk
Web: www.rnc.ac.uk

Company Limited by
Guarantee No. 2367626

Registered Charity No. 1000388