

Brent Start

Adult Education College

COURSE GUIDE 2025-2026



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



Welcome to Brent Start

In today's fast-paced world, upskilling and exploring new avenues for personal and professional growth are more essential than ever. As we face the challenges of an evolving job market, rapid advancements in AI, and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, our commitment to supporting Brent's residents in overcoming skills barriers has never been more critical. We recognise the immense potential and talent within our borough, and we are dedicated to developing a skilled workforce that meets local needs and enhances job security.

Brent Start offers a diverse range of courses tailored to empower individuals, whether you're looking to enhance your digital skills, improve your maths and English, or embark on a new career path. We also understand the importance of nurturing small businesses; our courses are designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with core skills they need to succeed. We believe that taking even a small step out of curiosity can lead to significant personal growth.

At Brent Start, we take immense pride in our learners' success stories. Many have transitioned into fulfilling careers, launched their own businesses and charities, or pursued higher education, thanks to the skills and confidence gained from Brent Start. I know personally how driven and committed our course tutors and curriculum managers are in ensuring a supportive and inspiring learning environment for individuals of all professional backgrounds, ages, and skillsets. Whatever you seek – whether it's advancing in your current career, pursuing a new opportunity, or simply satisfying your curiosity – there's something here for you.

Councillor Harbi Farah

Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills



Thank you for taking the time to pick up this guide and to find out more about Brent Start.

We have a great range of courses, from those that give you the opportunity to try something new and meet new people, right through to formal qualifications. As well as a huge variety of subjects to choose from, there are also various levels for differing abilities and requirements.

Brent Start is a fantastic place to get the support you need to progress into a better job or to enjoy the wider benefits of learning, such as health and wellbeing and improving your confidence. Our highly experienced and dedicated staff will ensure you gain the skills and knowledge you need to prepare for a fantastic future.

Good luck and I look forward to welcoming you to Brent Start!

Marc Jordan

Head of Brent Start



Brent start welcomes applications from anyone wanting to improve their skills, irrespective of gender, disability, social class, family circumstances, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic or national origin, or religion. We are an LGBTQ+ friendly organisation and at Brent Start you are free to learn in an open and supportive environment.

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TERM DATES: 2025-2026

Autumn Term:

Monday 8 September-Saturday 20 December 2025

Half Term: Monday 27 October-Saturday 1 November

Spring Term:

Monday 5 January-Saturday 28 March 2026

Half Term: Monday 16 February-Saturday 21 February

Summer Term:

Tuesday 13 April-Saturday 18 July 2026

Half Term: Monday 25 May-Saturday 30 May

To view the
courses we
offer, scan the
QR code
below



Why choose Brent Start for your studies?



Brent Start is an Adult Education service, offering part time courses to local residents aged 19+. We are funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), to deliver high quality courses in venues across Brent.

Whether you want to gain a qualification in maths, English, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), digital skills, childcare, supporting teaching and learning, health and social care or be more confident with computers, or life in general, we offer a variety of courses to suit your needs. We also have a wide range of courses and workshops to help our residents get back into employment or develop new skills. You can also support your child's development through our Family Learning courses.

GUIDANCE FOR STUDY

Visit a Brent Start Centre and meet our friendly Learner Information Advice & Support Officers who can assist with choosing the right course for you.

LEARNING CENTRES

Our Digital Skills Hub located in Wembley and the Hillside Centre located in Stonebridge have a learning resource facility for when you need to catch up on your coursework or homework. A member of Staff will also be around to assist.

We offer:

- Specialist Digital Skills Applications
- PC suite with full Microsoft Office package
- Windows 11
- Internet access
- Printing

CHILDCARE SUPPORT

Brent Start currently offers childcare support to some of our learners on accredited courses through local nurseries, giving our learners the opportunity to study.

DISCRETIONARY LEARNER SUPPORT FUND

- Brent Start can provide financial support to assist learners with the costs associated with learning, including a contribution to tuition fees, books and childcare fees. Visit a centre and speak to an adviser to find out if you're eligible to apply.

INSTALMENT PLANS

- Brent Start offers the opportunity to split some course fees into 3 payments made over the duration of studying.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT (ALS)

Brent Start believes high quality support is an imperative part of learners' success enabling every individual to reach their academic potential. Brent Start offers a variety of additional learning support methods depending upon the individual's needs. We offer one-to-one, workshop and in-class support across all mainstream courses.

Examination concessions are applied for where applicable and upon meeting the necessary criteria.

DYSLEXIA AND DYSCALCULIA

If you have declared you have a learning support need, such as dyslexia or dyscalculia, on your enrolment form, the ALS Coordinator will contact you after enrolment.

- We will request you to bring a copy of your report in advance so we can plan your support needs.
- You can self-refer for a dyslexic screening assessment
- Support in the Learning Centre
- Loan of equipment including laptops and reading pens
- Exam concessions assessments (where

applicable). Please note concessions will only be granted when learners attend or receive additional support.

- Exam concessions (where applicable). Please note concessions will only be granted when students attend the Study Centres for support.

In addition, if you have declared any of the following, during your interview, we will ensure your needs are discussed.

HEARING IMPAIRMENT

If you have declared you are a British Sign Language user on your application form, an interview with the coordinator will be arranged to ensure Brent Start can meet your needs prior to the curriculum interview. A communicator is provided for both the inclusion and curriculum interview.

MOBILITY

An accessibility assessment and a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan will be in place for learners with mobility requirements.

MEDICAL NEEDS

If you have a medical condition that affects your health, please notify us at application/enrolment. Please let your tutor or the ALS coordinator know if your health needs change. Please request an appointment with the ALS coordinator at application or enrolment if you want to discuss any additional needs. With your agreement, all tutors involved in your teaching are informed of any learning difficulties and additional needs to ensure we support you at Brent Start.

If you have any queries please contact our Learner Information Advice & Support Officers.

Main Switchboard **020 8937 3950**

Hairdressing Academy



Brent Start is proud to announce our brand-new Brent Hairdressing Academy, which opened its doors in May 2025!

Conveniently located at 16 Craven Park Road, Harlesden High Road, NW10 4AB, this state-of-the-art learning venue is designed to inspire and empower the next generation of hair and beauty professionals.

The academy features a fully equipped training hair salon alongside a modern classroom space, creating the perfect environment for hands-on learning and theoretical instruction. Whether you're looking to start a new career or enhance your existing skills, our academy offers a wide range of part-time courses and workshops tailored to suit all levels of experience.

Our curriculum includes expert-led training in the following areas:

- Hair colouring, cutting, and styling
- Hair extensions and braiding techniques
- Barbering skills
- Indian head massage
- Salon management
- Business start-up essentials for aspiring entrepreneurs

With a focus on practical skills, creativity, and industry knowledge, the Brent Hairdressing Academy is committed to helping learners achieve their goals and thrive in the dynamic world of hair and beauty.

Discover your potential and take the first step toward a rewarding career in the hair and beauty industry with the Brent Hairdressing Academy.

Case study **Safa, Brent Hairdressing Academy**

'I found out about Brent Start at the Civic Centre library and decided to enrol in a hair colouring course. When I saw the new Hairdressing Academy in Harlesden, I felt inspired to take my skills further. Now I confidently style hair for my friends and family, and I've even made a five-year plan to open my own salon.'



Digital Skills Hub

Empowering Residents and Employers in the Digital Age

The Brent Digital Skills Hub is dedicated to helping local residents and employers build the digital confidence and capabilities needed to thrive in today's connected world. Whether you're just starting out or looking to enhance your existing skills, we offer a wide range of accessible digital skills courses tailored to all levels.

What We Offer

Our courses cover everything from the very basics to more advanced IT user skills, including:

- Keyboard and mouse skills
- Word processing (e.g. Microsoft Word)
- Spreadsheets (e.g. Excel)
- Presentations (e.g. PowerPoint)

- Internet and email use
- Advanced IT applications
- Support Beyond Digital Skills

In addition to technical training, we also provide practical support for job seekers, including:

- How to search for jobs online
- Creating a professional CV
- Preparing for interviews

Whether you're aiming to enter the workforce, change careers, or simply feel more confident using technology in everyday life, the Brent Digital Skills Hub is here to support your journey.

Join us and take the next step toward digital empowerment and career success.



Student Life at Brent Start

A Vibrant Community of Creativity, Culture and Connection

At Brent Start, learning goes far beyond the classroom. Our students are part of a dynamic and inclusive community where creativity and personal growth are celebrated every step of the way.

From showcasing handmade garments at our student fashion show – a dazzling display of talent from our sewing and fashion design learners – to celebrating the rich tapestry of backgrounds that make up our borough during our Cultural Diversity Day, student life at Brent Start is full of opportunities to connect and thrive.

We believe that enrichment is a vital part of the learning journey. That's why we offer a variety of events, workshops, and activities throughout the year

'Everyone on the course was very helpful, and learning alongside them was a very positive experience.'

that encourage students to:

- Share their skills and passions
- Celebrate cultural heritage and traditions
- Build confidence and communication skills
- Form lasting friendships and networks

Whether you're learning a new skill or preparing for employment, Brent Start is a place where you can grow – both personally and professionally – in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Join us and become part of a community where every voice is valued and every achievement is celebrated.



How to enrol



Please visit our website for a full list of courses at www.brent.gov.uk/brentstart
There are two ways to enrol on a Brent Start course:

ONLINE

Some courses have online enrolment. Visit our website to see the course details and enrol online.

IN PERSON

You can enrol in person for any of our courses by visiting a Brent Start centre; a list of the locations is on the back of this booklet.

Please note: Some courses require an initial assessment to ensure you are placed at the

right level. If this applies to your chosen course, we will let you know and help you to arrange a convenient time for your assessment.

Most courses begin in September, but we also have classes starting throughout the academic year.

Please call the team on the number below for more information.

If you have any questions, you can call Brent Start on **020 8937 3950**
or email: brent.start@brent.gov.uk

Course costs options



SKILLS FOR LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT COURSES

These courses are free for many learners depending on your circumstances.

LEISURE AND WELLBEING COURSES

Discounts are available for those on certain benefits or earning under a certain amount.

FULL-COST COURSES

These courses are full price and no discounts apply.

Are you worried about paying for childcare while doing your course?

You may be entitled to support for childcare costs. Please ask about this when visiting the centre.

Concessionary rates for various courses are available if you are in receipt of state benefits, on a low income (under £27,007.50 per year) and have settled status.

You may also be eligible to have the course fees paid through the Discretionary Learner Support Fund.

If you want to achieve your first full level 3 qualification, which is equivalent to a technical certificate or diploma, or two full A levels, you may be eligible to have the fees paid. Please contact us to see if you are eligible.

Courses and fees may be subject to change.

ESOL (English for speakers of other languages)

Improve your English for everyday life, education and employment with ESOL. Our courses will help you gain confidence and speak, listen, read and write better in English.

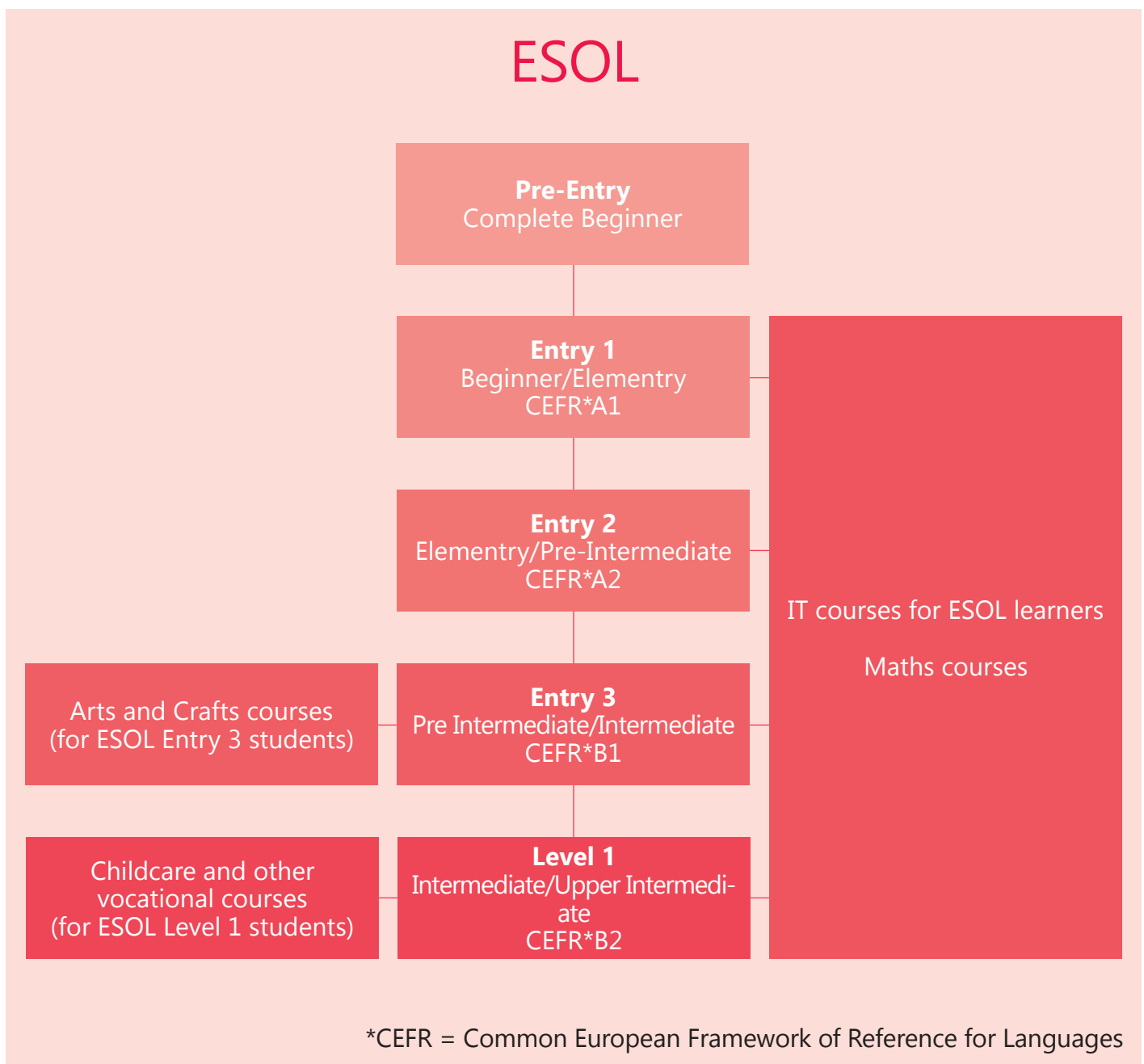
OUR COURSES

We have a wide range of ESOL courses available for adults (19+) at all levels from beginners (Pre-Entry) to Upper Intermediate (Level 1). Our courses cover English grammar and vocabulary and help you with reading, writing, listening and speaking. The focus is on reading in term 1, speaking and listening

in term 2 and writing in term 3.

There are also additional courses to support students in specific areas:

- ESOL Extra Support Entry 1 and Entry 2 to help students prepare for exams
- ESOL Grammar and Writing for Higher Levels
- English for Childcare to develop the language and skills needed to study childcare



- Driving Theory Test to learn the vocabulary needed to help you pass the Driving Theory Test
- ESOL IT to help you get better at using a computer
- ESOL Grammar Booster to help with and practise key areas of grammar in a short, intensive course

At the end of some of our courses, if you are ready, you take an exam and get a certificate. When you have an ESOL certificate in all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) at Entry Level 3, you can apply for vocational courses such as Childcare or Health and Social Care. When you have an ESOL certificate at Level 1, you can progress

to an English course and then GCSE English.

We are proud of the friendly and caring environment we offer all our students. They are consistently very positive about their learning experience, and studying ESOL at Brent Start really helped them develop their confidence, their life skills and their English and gave them the opportunity to meet people and make friends.

- 96.4% of our students say they are happy with their course.
- 97.7% of our students say they are happy with the teaching.
- 96.4% of our students say Brent Start is a good place to learn.

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT, READ WHAT OUR LEARNERS SAY.

- English helps me do a lot of things myself without help from anyone else.
- I feel much more confident with my English now.
- I've learnt new information, become confident and made a lot of friends.
- The course helps me be more confident and have friends from different countries. I learned a lot of vocabulary and how to make sentences and questions correctly.
- It is helping me with communication and emails, letters and other things.
- The course really helped me reduce my mental health and stress and improved my memory. It's made me more interested in reading.
- I have gained more confidence speaking and understanding English in daily situations. I've also improved my reading and writing skills, especially with forms and official documents.
- Overall, it has made a positive difference in my everyday life.

Data and quotes from survey March 2025

When, where and how you can study

Our courses are completely flexible, so you can build a timetable to suit your lifestyle. We have courses in the morning, afternoon and evening, as well as courses on Saturdays at various sites across the borough. You can choose how many hours you want to study each week, anything from just two hours up to ten or more.



Case study **Anisha, ESOL IT for improvers**

'I came to London in 2019. I joined Brent Start and enrolled on an ESOL course. I still remember that I didn't know how to write, read or communicate with different people and I was shy and nervous because of this but I have learned many new skills and now I feel much happier and more confident. Now I don't need anyone's help – I can do everything myself. But now, I speak English! This is one of my biggest achievements.'

Case study **Natalia, ESOL Entry 2**

'Brent Start has been such a great place to study and wonderful part of my life. The teachers are amazing, and they explain everything so clearly. Everyone has been supportive, and it is a really positive environment for learning. I began with ESOL Entry 1 and Life in the UK courses and I worked hard, passed my exams and now I am doing ESOL Entry 2, Grammar, IT Entry 2 and Maths Level 1. My dream is to achieve GSCE qualifications and take a nursing course. Learning English has been the key to understanding and connecting with people.'



Case study **Rissa, ESOL Entry 3**

'When I came here first, my English was terrible. I couldn't even tell the difference between past tense or present tense. Then, three years ago, I found Brent Start through a brochure at Wembley Library and I joined an ESOL class. I believe my English has really improved. I took other classes at Brent Start, like the Driving Theory Test class, and I passed! I also have a dream to study again at university and I think, writing skills are important here. My English has improved a lot in the last three years.'



Case study **Fadila, ESOL Entry 3**

'I have been learning English for four years. I improved my English skills, grammar, spelling and vocabulary. I feel more confident. Now I can speak and write well. My communication skills are much better now. I like everything about Brent Start. The teacher works hard to help us, and the reception staff are very friendly.'



Case study **Noor, ESOL Entry 3**

'I have been studying ESOL Entry 3 for the past year. I'm very glad that I have improved so many things, such as my confidence, my language and my communication skills. I'm looking forward to the next year so that I can make more progress and achievements. The staff at Brent Start are kind, helpful and very friendly. At Brent Start, you can study a lot of different things, and the teachers are hardworking, supportive and respectful.'

Case study **Veronika, ESOL Entry 3**

'I've been working at Brent Start for 5 years, and three years ago, I decided to join my first ESOL class here. I have worked from Entry 1 up to Entry 3. I've already learned so much and continue to grow every day. Studying ESOL at Brent Start has been a life-changing experience. The classes are well-structured, and the teachers are incredibly supportive, knowledgeable, and always ready to help. They create a positive and encouraging environment that makes learning enjoyable and effective.' It's a wonderful place to learn and grow.'



English

Open yourself to new study and employment opportunities!

Are you thinking of studying something like accounting, childcare or health and social care? You often need a minimum level of English to enable you to study other subjects. Do you want to get a better job or improve your employment prospects? Having a recognised English qualification will enhance your employment options.

We offer several English courses designed to improve the verbal communication, reading and writing skills of native English language speakers or people who have lived in the UK for several years and have a good command of the English language. There is a focus on improving spelling, grammar, punctuation and sentence structure, but our courses will also help you develop the skills and confidence you need for real-life situations.

Our English courses include the following:

- English Functional Skills Entry Level 3
- English Functional Skills Level 1
- English Functional Skills Level 2
- English Improving Literacy
- English Entry 3 and Level 1 Literacy

There are also some additional short courses and workshops to support your learning. If English is not your first language, our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses may be more suitable, but our team can advise on the best course for you when you come for your initial assessment.

ENGLISH



- 96.4% of our English students say they are happy with their course.
- 98.2% of our English students say they are happy with the teaching.
- 100% of our English students say Brent Start is a good place to learn.

When, where and how you can study

Most of our courses are one full day a week to best suit our students' professional and other responsibilities. They take place at either our Hillside centre or Willesden Green Library.

How to enrol for ESOL or English classes

Contact us on **020 8937 3950** to book an initial assessment. Our team will then advise on the best course for you.

Come and join our community of over 600 ESOL and English students to develop the language skills you need to socialise, work, access services and explore life in wider society.

English courses are free for eligible adults. Some of our courses are accredited and lead to the nationally recognised Functional Skills in English qualification and some courses help students get ready to join one of the Functional Skills courses

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT, READ WHAT OUR LEARNERS SAY.

- The course is very detailed and the teacher is excellent, helpful, very knowledgeable and patient.
- The teacher makes it easy for us to understand.
- The teacher gives equal attention to everyone.
- All I have to say is that this course is fantastic.
- The teachers are patient and give proper attention to all the students.
- I am extremely happy with the course.

Data and quotes from survey March 2025



Case study **Samira**

'I am an English student at Brent Start and my biggest dream is to have a career in the music industry. Brent Start Adult Education has been amazing in helping me reach this goal. They arranged for me to have a dyslexia assessment which has opened the door for me to get the right support. Thanks to the teachers and staff at Brent Start, my English reading and writing has improved so much – I feel so much more confident now! I have been offered a place at The London College of Contemporary Music to study a BA (Hon) in Commercial Music.'

Maths

Enhance your numeracy skills for everyday life, education, employment and career advancement. Our creative methods to teach numeracy skills aid in developing critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, crucial for managing personal and professional situations. Proficiency in numbers, measurements and statistics enables you to assist children with their homework..

Maths courses

- Basic Skills
- Awards and Certificates
- Functional Skills Entry Levels 1, 2 & 3
- Bridge Courses
- Functional Skills Levels 1 & 2
- GCSE one year and two year courses

COURSE CONTENT

In the Basic Skills course, you will get exposure to number bonds, number operations, measures, shape and space.

Functional Skills Entry 1 to 3 covers numbers, measures, shape and space and handling data. At all three levels, you develop problem-solving skills. In addition, we introduce various methods to solve questions that will help you assist your children with school homework.

Functional Skills Levels 1, 2, and GCSE cover mathematical concepts in more detail. You will acquire skills to solve complex multi-step problems. Completing these courses may offer better career progression. Functional Skills courses are 3 to 4 hours per week, and GCSE is 5 hours per week.

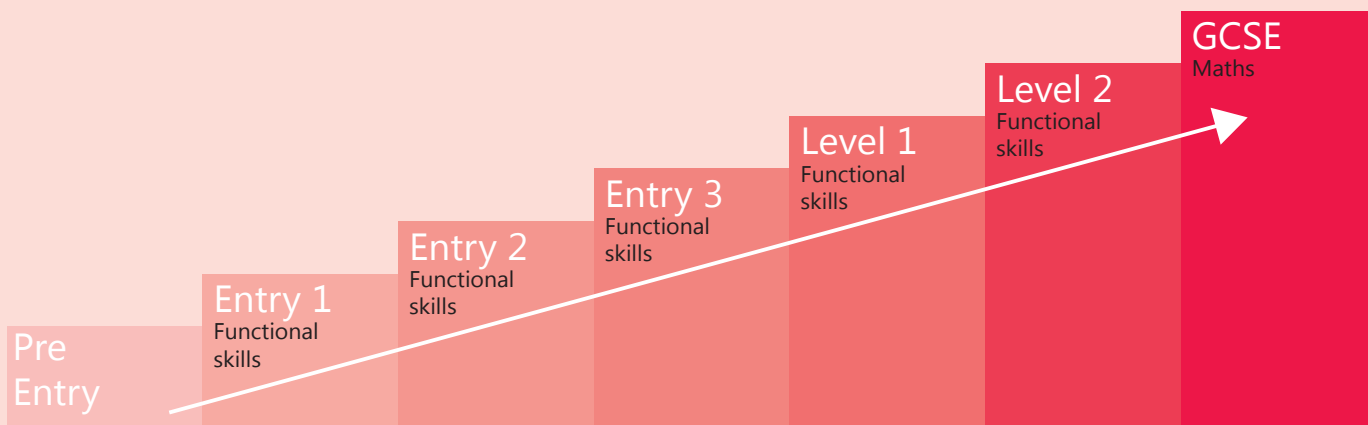
Functional Skills courses are 3 to 4 hours per week. GCSE, Accounting, and Payroll courses are 5 hours per week.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Functional Skills Entry levels, Levels 1 & 2, GCSE

No prior qualification is required. However, you must complete an initial assessment identifying your current subject knowledge level.

MATHEMATICS PROGRESSION PATHWAYS





Case study **Anne, GCSE Maths**

'Attending these maths sessions has been beneficial to me. My knowledge of various topics, especially geometry and algebra, has significantly improved. I am able to think/reason more logically when solving problems, whether they are basic or of a more complex concept. It has also prepared me for diverse career paths, giving me transferable skills that are useful for both my personal (managing my household finances and assisting my son with his school homework) and professional (seeking better form of employment) needs.'



Case study **John, GCSE Maths**

'I started two years ago with Level 1 maths and am currently doing my GCSE Higher course. Throughout my study, my learning journey has been very smooth and my experience, quite enjoyable and worthwhile. In both courses the support and encouragement from tutors has been extraordinary. They try their best to make me feel I learn something every day. In class they encourage me to ask any questions without any reservation and outside class, reinforce my learning by giving variety of supplementary independent study resources and activities using online platforms like Google classroom. The layout of the contents of the courses have also been very well structured to build new skills and knowledge on what we had before. What's most interesting is the content is well linked with real life situations, so I was able to see the relevance of my maths lessons in lots of my day-to-day life.'

Finance and Payroll

Gain valuable expertise in accounting, bookkeeping, and payroll transactions with our computerised accounting and payroll qualifications. Ideal for individuals aspiring to, or already working in the financial services sector, including banks, building societies, insurance brokers, and self-employed business owners. Our 5-hour-per-day, once-a-week accounting and payroll courses are designed to move your career forward.

Courses offered in 2025-26

- Managing Personal Finances
- Computerised Accounting Levels 1, 2 & 3
- Bridge to Accounting Levels 3
- Computerised Payroll Levels 1 & 2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCE AND PAYROLL COURSES

Computerised Accounting Level 1 & Computerised Payroll Level 1

No prior qualifications are required. However, you must achieve a minimum Entry 3 in Maths, English and Digital Skills initial assessment to join the course.

Computerised Accounting Level 2

You must have a prior accounting qualification at level 1, Maths level 1 or higher and an Entry 3 in English and Digital Skills initial assessment to join the course.

Computerised Accounting Level 3

You must have a prior accounting qualification at level 2, Maths level 1 or higher, and an Entry 3 in English and Digital Skills initial assessment to join the course.

Computerised Payroll Level 2

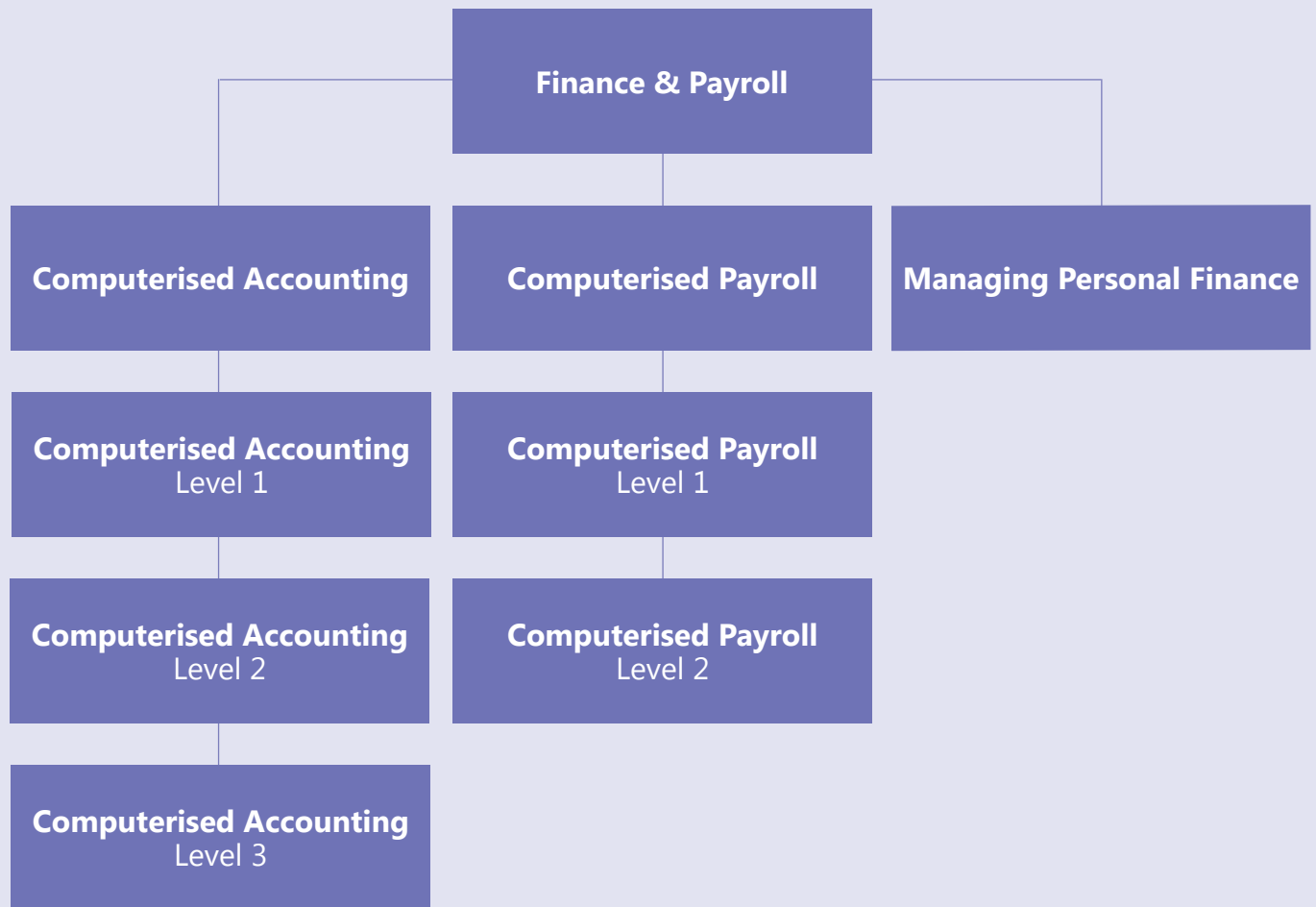
You must have a prior payroll qualification at level 1, Maths level 1 or higher and an Entry 3 in English and Digital Skills initial assessment to join the course.



Case study **Rita, Accounting Level 3 & Payroll Level 2**

'I attended the Sage Cloud Accounting and Payroll course at Brent Start Adult College. I have successfully completed Level 2 and will be completing Level 3 by this July. Day by day, I am becoming more confident in using Sage software. I can now handle it more easily and effectively. This course has helped me gain a lot of knowledge in both Sage and general accounting and payroll. The teaching style has made a big difference in my confidence and understanding of the software. We also benefit from teamwork in the classroom through group discussions and solving problems together.'

FINANCE AND PAYROLL PROGRESSION PATHWAYS



Case study **Barbara, Accounting Level 3**

'The Accounting Level 3 course was a fantastic experience. Our tutor was highly knowledgeable and incredibly supportive, making complex topics easy to understand. After completing Level 3, I now feel confident to apply for roles in accounting firms, private companies (as all industries need accountants) and the public sector. Everyone on the course was very helpful, and learning alongside them was a very positive experience. I truly appreciate the opportunity and support provided by the Brent Start Adult Education Services. It's a wonderful place to learn and grow.'



Working with Children and Health and Social Care courses

CHILDCARE COURSES

Unlock a fulfilling and rewarding career in childcare with our comprehensive courses. Our courses are designed to equip you with the practical skills, in-depth understanding of child development and play-based learning, and the confidence needed to support the growth and development of young children.

You'll learn from experienced professionals in engaging, hands-on sessions that cover everything from early years education to safeguarding and child welfare. Whether you're just starting out, or looking to enhance your current role, our courses will help you build a solid foundation for success in this vital field.

Courses offered in 2025-26

- Entry 3 Award Caring for a Child
- Level 1 Certificate in Caring for Children
- Level 2 Diploma in Early Years Practitioner 2 (Nursery/Early Years placement required)

TEACHING ASSISTANT COURSES

Working with Children

Are you passionate about making a difference in the classroom? Our Teaching Assistant courses will give you the essential skills to support learning and development, knowledge, and confidence to support teachers and help students reach their full potential.

You'll learn how to assist

with learning activities, manage behaviour, and create inclusive environments for all students. Through a combination of theory and hands-on experience in real school environments, our courses prepare you to thrive in a variety of educational settings.

Courses offered in 2025-26

- Level 1 Award Preparing to Work in Schools.
- Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning (Placement in a school required)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Step into a meaningful career in health and social care with our dynamic and supportive courses. Designed to prepare you for work in various care settings, these courses focus on the essential skills needed to provide

compassionate, person-centred support to individuals of all ages.

You'll develop your knowledge of health and wellbeing, learn how to promote dignity and independence, and gain practical experience in real-world scenarios. You'll also learn about key principles and policies in health and social care, an understanding of effective communication and teamwork, and clear pathways to higher-level qualifications and rewarding careers.

Courses offered in 2025-26

- Level 1 Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
- Level 2 Certificate in Health and Social Care



- Level 2 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care
- Level 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care

Entry requirements for all courses

Entry 3 and Level 1 courses

You will be assessed for your English/Literacy levels and be advised on which level you are suitable for. Preferably you will have access to a laptop and a basic level of digital skills.

For Level 2 courses

Your English level needs to be at Level 1. You should be confident to use MS Word and able to use a laptop/PC to access online learning and use the Internet to research.

For Level 3 courses

Your English level needs to be at Level 2. You should be confident to use the software MS Word and able to use a laptop/PC to access online learning and use the Internet to research.



Case study **Renata, Bridge to Childcare L2**

'I started with the Level 1 Preparing to Work in Schools course, which gave me a good understanding of the UK education system. I learned about school structures, roles of professionals, and the curriculum. What really made a difference was when I started volunteering in a school during this course. This hands-on experience not only deepened my understanding but also strengthened my desire to work with children, especially those who need extra support. Now, I'm doing the Bridge Course for Level 2, which I'm really looking forward to. I want to improve my skills especially in reflective writing and planning activities for children.'

Case study **Atinuke, Extended Diploma in HSC L2**

'Brent start was part of the best decision I made, especially my learning journey in the Level 2 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care has been rewarding. I've gained a lot of solid understanding about the healthcare setting in each course unit that we have learned. I've also developed important skills such as empathy, teamwork, and professionalism. Also, having a teacher who is always ready to support when needed, makes me look forward to the next class. This course has motivated me in different aspects and I am also looking forward to the Level 3, and to work towards a career in supporting others.'



Digital Skills

In today's fast-paced digital world, gaining or improving basic computer skills is essential, as technology is blended into our daily lives. For beginners and those at an intermediate level, learning these skills can empower you to manage tasks efficiently, build your digital confidence, stay connected and enjoy entertainment. Enhancing these skills increases productivity and opens new opportunities, making it a valuable investment in personal and professional growth.

Courses on offer in 2025-26

- Essential Computer and Online Skills
- Foundation Digital Skills
- MS Excel for Work
- Essential Digital Skills qualifications (EDSQ) Entry Level 3 (Online exam)/ Award in Progression Entry 3 (Portfolio Based)
- Essential Digital Skills qualifications (EDSQ) Level 1 (Online Exam)

COURSE CONTENT

Essential Computer and Online Skills

This course provides students with practical, hands-on experience in core computer and online skills. Topics include understanding computer hardware and software, basic file management, word processing and safe internet browsing. Students will also gain experience with email, social media, online safety and digital communication tools, such as Google Drive. The course concludes with a review and a practical assessment to ensure students can confidently use a computer for everyday tasks.

Foundation Digital Skills

This course supports students at Entry Level 1 and 2 to build fundamental digital skills for personal, social and everyday life. It covers using digital devices, file storage, internet safety, email, messaging

apps and simple document creation. Other topics include digital media management, online transactions, video calling and troubleshooting basic technical issues. The final weeks are dedicated to formative and summative assessments to help students demonstrate their progress through practical tasks and portfolio work.

Essential Digital Skills qualifications (EDSQ) Entry Level 3 and Level 1

These courses build core digital skills for everyday life and work, following the national standards for Essential Digital Skills (2019). Students will develop confidence across five key areas: using devices and managing information, creating and editing digital content, communicating online, carrying out online transactions safely and understanding how to stay safe and responsible online.

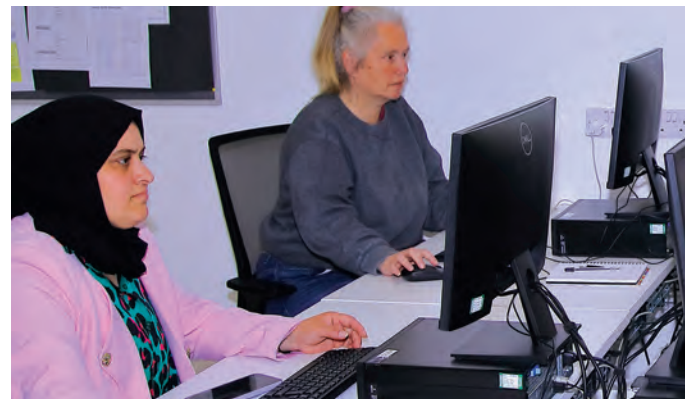
Through hands-on tasks and real-life scenarios, students will gain practical experience with common digital tools, from managing files and emails to protecting personal data and using devices securely. These essential digital skills courses include review sessions, a mock exam and final exam to ensure students can confidently apply their digital skills in personal, educational and professional contexts.

MS Excel for Work

Possessing basic knowledge of and skills in MS Excel is an increasing advantage in the workplace, regardless of your chosen field. Excel is used, amongst other things, to organise and analyse data. The course includes an introduction to formulas and functions, relative and absolute cell references and tables and charts.

Entry requirements

No prior qualifications are required. However, you must complete an initial assessment to identify your current subject knowledge level.



Case study **Daksha, Award in Progression Entry 3**

'At the beginning of the course from a Digital Skills knowledge perspective, I felt like a child learning to walk. Now I feel all grown up and ready to run. I was very overwhelmed but that has passed and although I still have a way to go I'm ready for what's coming next. Being persistent and with the support of 2 very patient tutors I wish to progress with continued hard work. This opportunity has given me yet another hobby so to speak and I am happy to sit at a screen and practise and develop what I have learnt so far in this course.'

Supported Learning

We offer accredited and non-accredited courses for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities. We support learners in developing skills for life and work that will help them live independently in their communities.

The range of courses offered includes courses to develop learners' confidence, creativity and independent life skills, in addition to literacy, numeracy and digital skills. Safeguarding individual students' wellbeing is paramount and all supported students will receive training in being safe and keeping safe.

The Supported learning provision offers the following:

1. **Programme 1.** Four day Mon-Fri at Hillside Centre Stonebridge.
2. **Programme 2.** Two day Mon-Tue or Wed-Thurs at Harlesden Library Plus.

3. **Programme 3.** Pre-Entry Essential Digital skills. Fridays at Hillside Centre Stonebridge.
4. Enrichment-all learners will participate in enrichment activities to promote British Values, Community awareness, the development of personal, social and life skills whilst understanding their voice in the community.
5. Health and Wellbeing-all Supported Learning students participate in weekly sporting and gym activities to promote health and wellbeing, working with others and engaging in leisure activities.

Programme 1	Programme 2	Programme 3
Hillside Centre	Harlesden Library	Hillside Centre
4 days (Monday-Thursday)	2 days Mon & Tue (Group 1) or Wed & Thurs (Group 2)	2.5 hours per week Every Friday 1-3:30pm
Qualifications: 1. Functional skills Maths and English E1-E3. 2. Pre- entry Award in Essential Digital skills. 3. Enrichment 4. Health and Wellbeing 5. OCN Diploma 6. New learners will complete level based on IA (initial assessment).	Qualifications: 1. Functional skills Maths and English E1-E3. 2. Pre- entry Award in Essential Digital skills. 3. Enrichment 4. Health and Wellbeing 5. OCN Diploma 6. New learners will complete level based on IA. (initial assessment).	Qualifications: 1. Pre-entry essential digital skills 2. New learners will complete level based on IA.

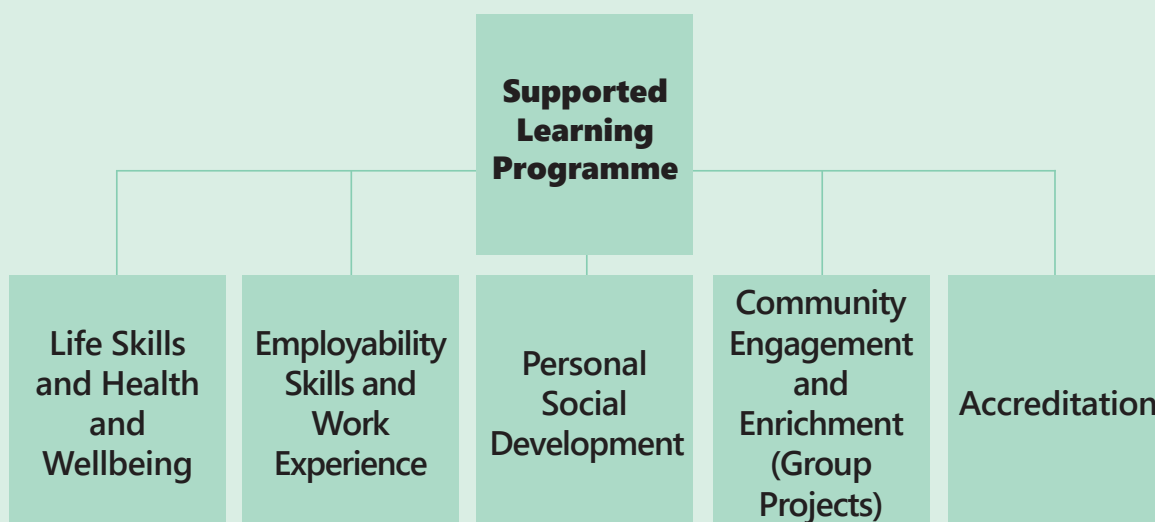
PROGRESSION:

The supported learning Programme at Brent Start is closely aligned with Preparation for Adulthood. This means all SEND students on programme are supported through a holistic and individualised programme of teaching and support that focusses on personalised targets which enables them to participate as active

citizens in their local community.

Brent Start's Supported learning students are supported to access external agencies who can support with their progression whether it is in voluntary activities or employment. We work closely with DWP to ensure all students have access to the right support.

SUPPORTED LEARNING PROGRAMME MODEL



- Linked to initial assessment data, individual targets and progression routes
- Develop e-learning and e-safety content
- Informed by learner forums
- Develop Citizenship/British values
- Embed Prevent
- Explore therapeutic input within Health and Wellbeing i.e. music, dance and art therapy
- Embed relationship and consent training for learners
- Learners undertake voluntary work experience to develop their skills
- Maths, English and IT mandatory for all Supported Learning learners (contextualised i.e. money, shopping, etc)
- Digital Skills

SUPPORTED LEARNING CURRICULUM IN PICTURES

Celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion:





Case study **Nilkantha (Nil)**

'In this digital skills course I have learnt how to work out formulas and calculate spreadsheets on excel. I also learnt how to create and design logos on the word document and about online safety when using social media. I also learnt how to print screen pictures and documents using the keys on the computer keyboard. I have achieved well to use the internet and do different tasks using excel and PowerPoint. Before I wasn't able to do print screen/screenshot pictures and information. I learnt how to do this with support from my classmates and the tutor. I can now do this very well.'

Case study **Simone**

'In my Supported Learning Digital skills course, I have gained so much confidence. I am not so fearful anymore and I'm able to do more on a computer. It has not always been easy, but I haven't given up. In English, I have gained so much knowledge, I am able to understand and complete the work I am given. The teacher has given me so much support and encouragement. Being at Brent Start has also built up my self-esteem and the willingness to learn and take on new things. Having all the right teachers has really helped me to want to learn and keep on learning and realising its okay if it takes me longer to do the work.'



Case study **Natalie**

'I'm currently studying Essential Digital Skills because I really want to improve my confidence with technology. I've already completed the Entry 3 EDSQ qualification and I'm now working towards Level 1. It hasn't been an easy year for me health-wise, but I've stayed positive and always try to be kind and supportive in class. I enjoy helping my classmates whenever I can, and I feel really valued and respected at Brent Start.'

Personal Development and Community Learning

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

We offer a variety of courses in arts and crafts, practical skills, health and wellbeing. These courses can be a step towards volunteering, employment, starting a business or for your own enjoyment.

- Sewing, Clothes Design and Sustainable Fashion
- Hairdressing and Barbering
- Commercial and Professional Floristry
- Balloon Decoration Designs and Gifts
- Event Styling and Enterprise
- Business Start Up
- Sugar Craft and Cake Decorating
- Drawing and Painting
- British Sign Language

Courses are available for beginners and more experienced students, with day and evening classes. These are mostly non-accredited courses with a progression to vocational courses, further training, self-employment or employment.

Community Partners

We work with several community partners in Brent who engage most vulnerable residents. We have a wide selection of courses, which can be tailored to the needs of communities and service users at various organisations across Brent. If you have service users who need courses in Family Learning, ESOL, and English, maths, digital skills, employability, arts and crafts, health, and wellbeing. Classes are usually 1-3 hours per week for 5-10 weeks including tasters, one-day workshops, events, activities and

joint projects, starting as and when required.

Please contact us for more information on how we can work together.

Family Learning

We offer free classes to support the wellbeing of parents by reducing isolation. Teaching is usually in small groups, which typically meet for two hours a week, for anything between five and ten weeks. Classes take place in community venues, Family and Wellbeing Centres and Libraries throughout the year.

Courses focus on developing language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills; we also offer various creative and family-based activities outside of term time.

In collaboration with our partners, parents are encouraged to participate in purposeful activities with/without their children.

The Brent Family Wellbeing Centres provide various community-led services that can support you from the moment you know you're expecting, through pregnancy and birth, until your child is 18 years old (or up to 25 for children and young people with special educational needs).

The Centres, offer a wide range of free health, education and welfare services to families and aim to give everyone in Brent the best possible start in life. Scan the QR code below for more information.





Case study **Yashvi, Commercial Floristry, Wembley Outreach Centre**

'After spending a lot of time at home due to mobility issues, my mum encouraged me to look into courses at Brent Start. I've always loved nature and photography, so when I saw the floristry course, I was immediately drawn to it. It's been a wonderful creative outlet for me, and it's even helped me improve my photography skills. I feel more confident going out now, and I'm thinking about trying other courses.'

Case study **John, Sugarcraft and Sewing, Hillside Centre**

'After retiring from TfL, I finally had the chance to pursue my passion for cake decorating. I joined all the sugarcraft classes at Brent Start starting in September 2024, and I even took up sewing – I made a blouse for my wife! What started as a hobby has grown into something more, and I'm now considering starting a home-based cake business.'




Case study **Abissatou, Brent Hairdressing Academy**

'I first joined Brent Start back in 2003, taking ESOL and digital skills classes. In 2024, I came back to study barbering because I was struggling to find someone to cut my son's hair. Since then, I've taken several hairdressing courses. I really appreciate the supportive and diverse learning environment here – it's helped me grow so much.'

Brent Start Learning Centres

- 1 Hillside Centre**
Twybridge Way, London NW10 0ST
- 2 Willesden Green Library**
95 High Road, London NW10 2SF
- 3 Harlesden Library**
Craven Park Road, London NW10 8SE
- 4 Brent Digital Skills Hub**
Central Square, Wembley HA9 7AJ
- 5 Brent Hairdressing Academy**
16 Craven Park Road, London, NW10 4AB

 Underground
 Overground



www.brent.gov.uk/brentstart

Telephone **020 8937 3950**

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