CREATE CAREERS

Big Creative Academy Careers Programme



The Quality in Careers Standard

Creative UK

bce BIG CREATIVE EDUCATION APPRENTICESHIPS TRAINING ACADEMY

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

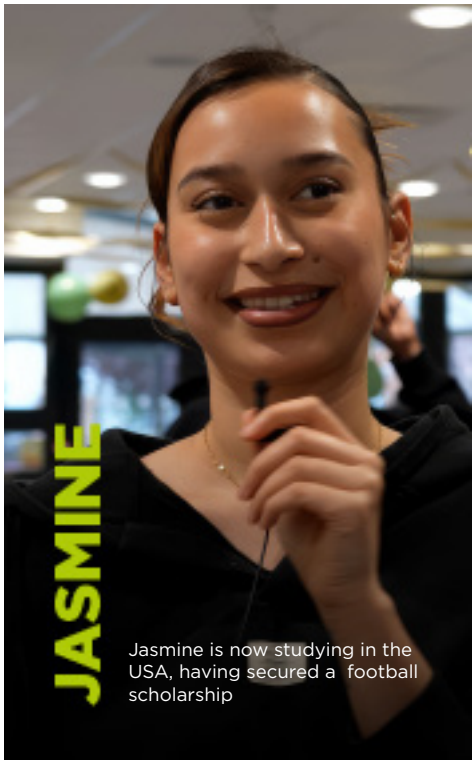
OUR AIM

"Our intent for the careers programme is to enhance learners' personal development to have a powerful impact in the creative arts. Students take the skills and knowledge, behaviour and attitudes they learn and apply them to their career ambitions within the growing creative industries. Students are supported by our qualified and impartial careers service to make good decisions, taking their next steps into higher education, apprenticeships, employment or starting their own business."



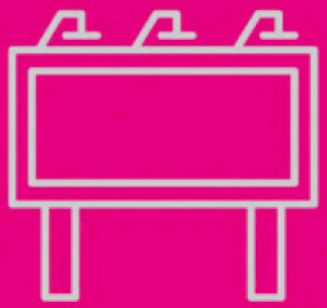




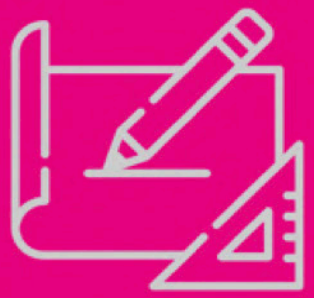


70% of learners have careers in the creative industries

WHAT ARE THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES?



Advertising and marketing



Architecture



Crafts



Design and designer fashion



Film, TV, video, radio and photography



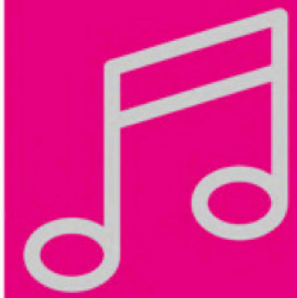
IT, software and computer services



Publishing



Museums, Galleries and Libraries



Music, performing and visual arts

PROGRESSION PATHWAYS



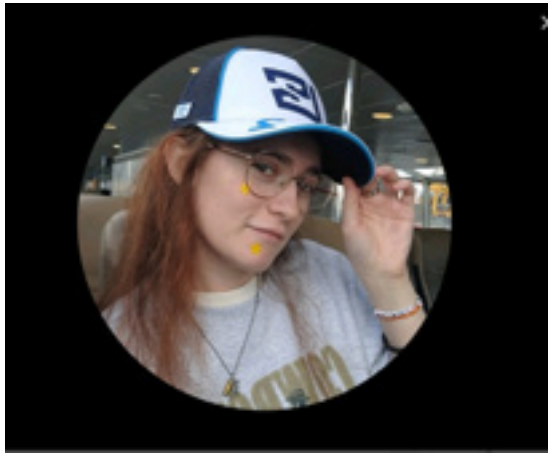
There are four main pathways you can follow after you finish your course at Big Creative Academy.

Here are some of our former media students to illustrate them.



Apprenticeship
Nathaniel secured an apprenticeship at ITN as a camera operator

Employment
Alin got a job as a Content Creator at Screenshot Media



Higher Education
Mel went on to a Radio and TV Production degree at Salford University

Own business
Jacob set up his own events company Dovetail & Nightlife Events



THE CAREERS TEAM

We're here to get to you where you want to be

Our diverse and experienced careers team work incredibly hard to make sure students not only take the next steps that are best for them, but also ensure young people know how to manage their career over a lifetime.

Alongside the technial expertise of your tutors, we are here to give you all the tips and tricks, hacks and cheat codes that will help you secure opportunities.

We're really proud that our students are now a force of young people changing the face of the creative industries.



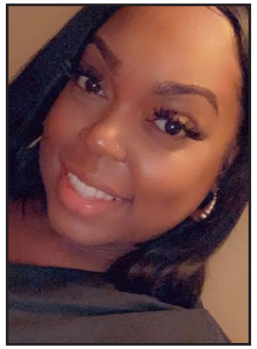
Jyoti Farmah
Careers Manager

Jyoti has years of experience advising young people in careers. She is qualified at Level 6.



Victoria Spence
Director of Careers and Careers Lead

Vicki's career was formerly in academia, working in political research at UCL.



Maya Marriott
Careers Manager

Maya used to be a media teacher, and now focuses more on the pastoral side of education.



Caleb Adebisi
Work Experience Officer

You might have seen Caleb on the TV as he is an actor and also has his own fashion brand.



Natasha Chukwuma
Careers Facilitator

Natasha has a retail background, having been a senior manager at fashion brand All Saints.



Lara Akeju
Careers Facilitator

Lara has 20+ years working in TV as a a former commissioning editor at the BBC, ITV and Channel 4.

LISTENING TO EMPLOYERS

How do we know what employers want from young people?

We ask them! We have a crazy amount of contacts with high profile companies with many of them contributing to our employer steering group. We have an annual conference to inform us of what we should be teaching, industry trajectories and what employers are looking for from young recruits.

ZOONATION DANCE COMPANY
Moma Hilo
ShockOut
Roland
BFI
BBC STUDIO WORKS
Creative UK
CREATIVE ASSEMBLY
SOCIETY OF LONDON THEATRE EST 1908
MediaTracks Authentic, Innovative and Inclusive Music
THE PLACE
BUSINESS LDN
MANGO STUDIOS LDN
SRVC
itv
bluezoo
NEVERDARK STUDIO
ISLAND
THE OLD VIC
BUILDHOLLYWOOD TH
UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP
FASHION DISTRICT
SOHO THEATRE
Industrial Light & Magic
FRAMESTORE

Memberships to Creative UK and Business London help us keep up with industry and local skills gaps.

Creative is a priority sector for investment since there are skills shortages in many jobs, and a lack of diversity.

Employer Steering Group blog post (June 2023)

LEARNER NEEDS ANALYSIS

Knowledge
- Pathways and jobs
- Labour market information
- CVs, portfolios, show-reels, socials
- Working freelance

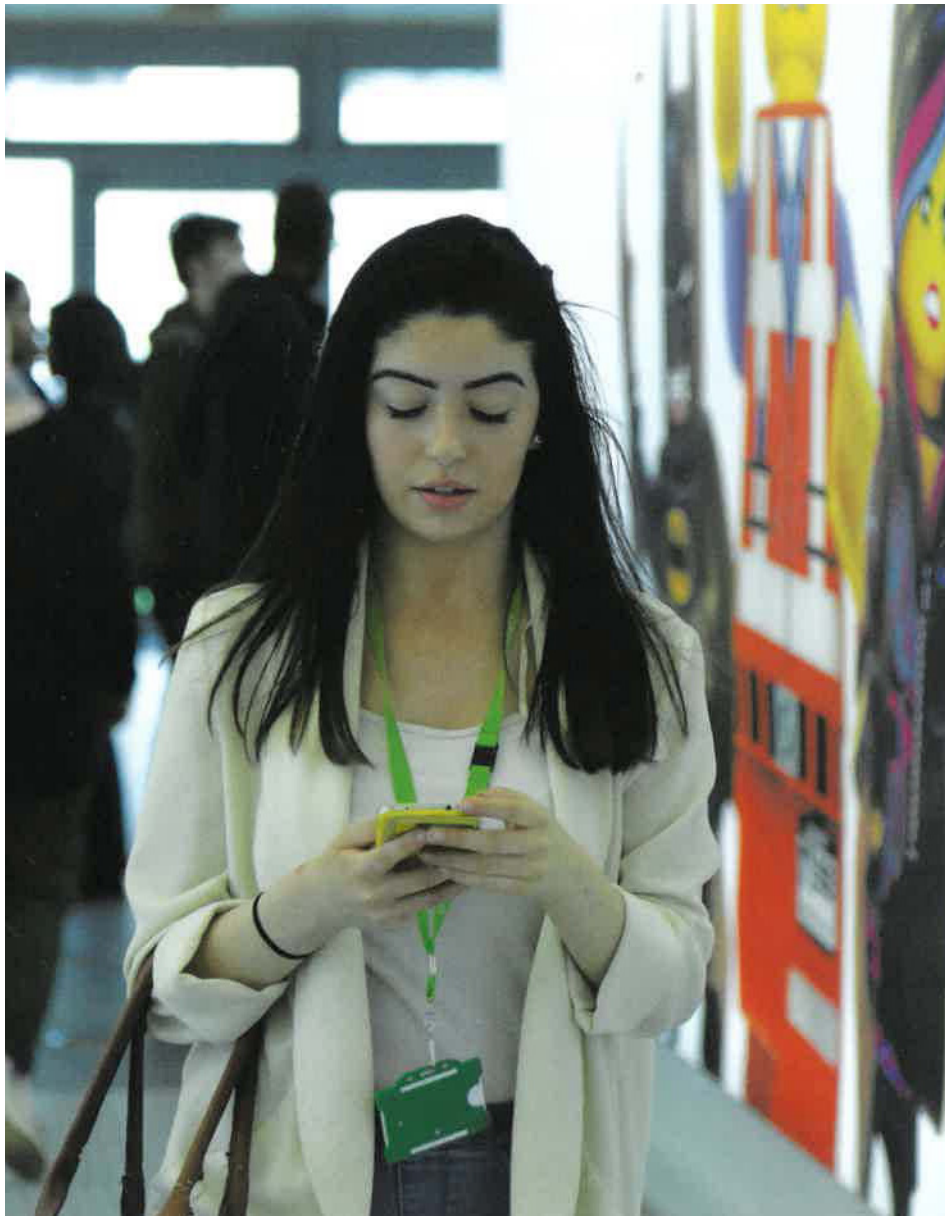
Attitude
- Punctuality
- Commitment
- Willing to try
- Authenticity
- Hard work

Behaviour
- Integrity
- Kindness
- Respect
- Professionalism

Skills
- Subject specific
- Employability skills
- Networking
- Interpersonal
- Adaptability

Digital

Promoting and teaching digital skills is a priority in the London LSIP and a necessity for the creative industries. Students will be taught the relevant digital skills for their individual disciplines and also advanced digital skills such as AI, cybersecurity and digital entrepreneurship.



CAREERS @BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY

YEAR 1: DEVELOP THE PLAN

CAREERS LEARNING OUTCOMES:
there are six themes for careers education which you will learn

Grow Throughout Life
Learning and reflection on yourself and your strengths

Explore Possibilities
Labour market information and career opportuniities

Manage Your Career
Make the most of opportunities and learn from setbacks

Create Opportunities
Be proactive and build positive relationships with others

Balance Life and Work
Balancing work, family and other interests

See the Big Picture
How the economy, politics and society affect your career

CAREERS SESSIONS
Weekly careers classes for you to learn the six themes of careers education and understand all of your career options. By the end of Year 1, you will have worked out what your next steps are, ready to take them in Year 2.

TRIPS & VISITS
Class trips to workplaces and universities to help with your career ambitions

CAREERS ADVISOR 121
Individual advice for each student from the Careers Team

TUTOR APPRAISALS
Regular discussions with your tutor about your career ambitions and ensure you are working to achieve them

BY THE END OF THE LEVEL 3 YEAR 1, YOU WILL HAVE:

- ✓ Worked on a live industry brief with an employer
- ✓ An up to date creative CV
- ✓ Understood the creative industries
- ✓ Understood progression options
- ✓ Visited workplaces, universities and apprenticeship providers
- ✓ A careers plan, reflecting your values and aspirations
- ✓ Acknowledged and improved your employability skills
- ✓ Had an appointment with a qualified careers advisor
- ✓ Started your UCAS application

CDI Career Development Institute · bce · BIG CREATIVE EDUCATION APPRENTICESHIPS TRAINING ACADEMY · Ofsted Outstanding Provider

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YEAR 2: DO THE PLAN

CAREERS SESSIONS - BUSINESS
Weekly careers classes for you to learn about financial literacy, working as a freelancer and setting up your own business.

CAREERS ADVISOR 121
Individual advice for each student from our Level 6 qualified Careers Advisor

WORK EXPERIENCE
Work for an employer to support your career ambitions and enhance your portfolio

BUILDING PORTFOLIOS & SHOWREELS
Tutors will help you build up a portfolio of your work ready for employers

BY THE END OF LEVEL 3 YEAR 2, YOU WILL HAVE:

- ✓ Understood how to set yourself up as a freelancer
- ✓ Created portfolios and showreels
- ✓ Created your own professional websites and social media
- ✓ Completed your UCAS application
- ✓ Practised interviews and selection processes
- ✓ Worked on an extended industry project with an employer
- ✓ Completed a work experience placement
- ✓ Had a second appointment with a qualified careers advisor
- ✓ Built internal and external networks

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UCAS

FINANCIAL LITERACY & BUSINESS:
the reality of working in the creative industries

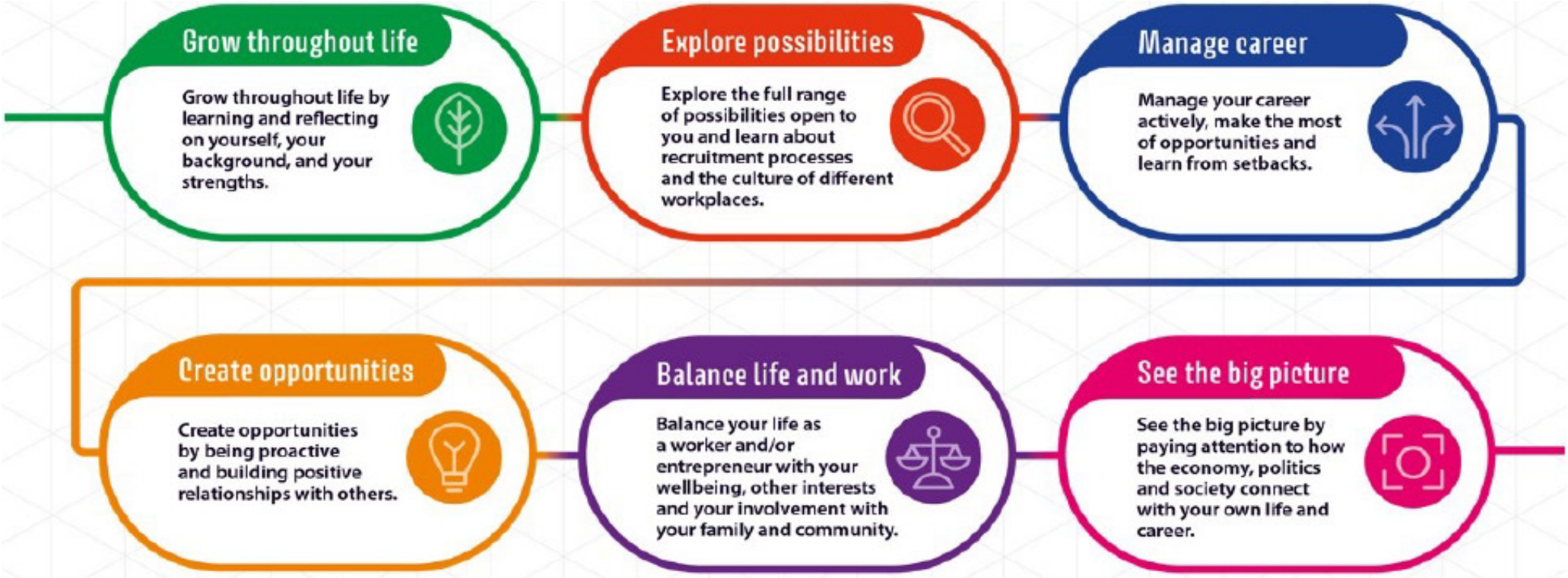


Understanding everyday finance:
your payslip, taxes, savings, credit, mortgages, knowing your worth

Life as a freelancer:
getting jobs, keeping expense sheets, building networks, fair pay, tax returns

Setting up your own business:
business plans, pitching, revenue and expenditure, risk management

YEAR 1 CAREERS SESSIONS



Careers Learning Outcomes

The Careers Development Institute (CDI) recommend learning outcomes for careers in exactly the same way there are learning outcomes for your vocational subjects. By the end of the careers programme students will be able to demonstrate specific abilities within the six themes. These are the "I can..." statements opposite.

YEAR 1 CAREERS SESSIONS

“I can…”

- Complete a personal skills audit
- Access face to face and online help for careers
- Peform well in interview scearios
- Reflect and discuss the different interests, abilities and values I have to match different jobs
- Develop my enterprise and employability skills through volunteering
- Reflect critically on the legal, ethical and business case for EDI in the workplace
- Discuss the topic of work/life balance



Employers Expect Advanced Levels of Digital Skills
The careers sessions will compliment the digital skills taught in your vocational classes to ensure all students have the digital skills ready for employment.

121 Careers Sessions and Tutor Appraisals
Both the careers team and the curriculum team work together to help you decide where you want to be after you finish your course. We’ll have regular conversations with you so you understand what the small steps are to fulfil your career aspirations.

YEAR 2 CAREERS SESSIONS - BUSINESS



Money Management
It's so important that young people learn financial skills. Most of our students work whilst at college and need to understand contracts and salaries, tax and savings.

Working as a Creative
Both the careers team and the curriculum team work together to help you decide where you want to be after you finish your course. We'll have regular conversations with you so you understand what the small steps are to fulfil your career aspirations, and have a fantastic portfolio ready to go.

Session topics

- Taxes and national insurance contributions
- Understanding your payslip
- Borrowing - mortgages, credit scores, overdrafts
- Savings
- Mindset of an entrepreneur
- Market research and identifying needs
- Using freelance platforms
- Branding yourself and your company
- Business planning
- Grants and funding
- Pitching yourself, contracts
- Networks and building relationships, online and IRL

YEAR 2 CAREERS SESSIONS - BUSINESS

Self-Employment
As a creative, it's highly likely that you'll end up working for yourself at some point in your career. This could be as a freelancer, i.e. doing a specific job for a company on a short-term basis or setting up your own business and provding services for others.

Setting up your Own Business
There's lots to know about how to set up your own business, from having a business plan and marketing through to legal compliance and taxes. We'll walk you through everything you need to know!



upwork fiverr®

peopleperhour

33% of people in the creative industries work freelance

KEEPING TRACK - YOUR CAREERS PLAN

Morrisby

Reviewing Careers Activities
During your study programme you'll do lots of careers activities designed to help you explore career options. You'll keep track of these on a platform called Morrisby, so that you can remember what inspired you. You might go on a trip to a theatre, for example, and were fascinated with the sound and lighting, or costumes. This might influence what you want to go on and do in the future.

We'll also help you explore options by keeping you up to date with industry opportunities.

All jobs posted on the Careers Google Classroom which go straight to your inbox

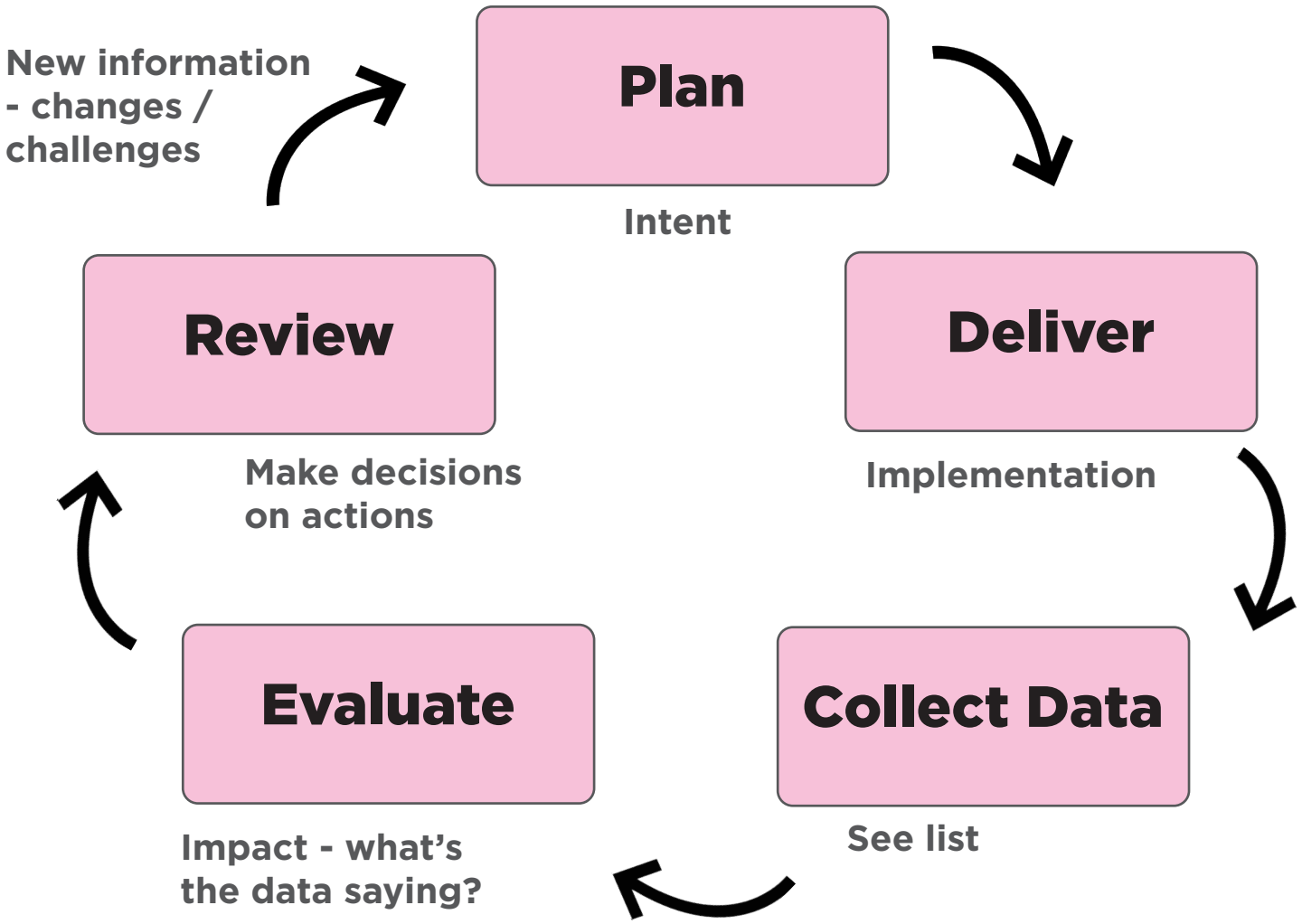
Google Classroom

Weekly Reflection
In each of your weekly careers sessions you'll review your careers activites and reflect on how your learning influences your goals and actions. It's an important way of building your career plan.

The Academy achieved a national kitemark for careers provision in June 2025 - the Quality in Careers Standard.

QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



Data Collection

There's loads of data we collect and analyse throughout the year:

- Student feedback and learner forum
- Student surveys
- Careers deep dives
- Feedback from 121 appointments
- UCAS application trends
- Destination data

We also hear from external sources:

- Parent feedback
- Employers
- Governors
- Alumni
- Careers hubs and specaialists

COME BACK AND SEE US!

Cafe Works is a public advice and guidance centre all about careers in the creative arts. It's like having a specialist job centre on site.

It is a hub for creative arts businesses and practitioners, and the Cafe Works instagram posts all the creative arts opportunities across

Our advisors will help identify the right opportunity for you.

JOB CENTRE FOR THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Jobs & Business Support

- Talent agencies and business links
- Support for creative SMEs
- Brokering for businesses and individuals

Mentoring and short couses

- Matching young people with industry experts and opportunities to support career planning and development

Apprenticeships

- In house team running apprenticeship programmes, working to prepare learners for industry

Alumni & Jobs Events

Cafe Works is a hub for our alumni, where they find support for each stage of their career. Our advisors will collate opportunities and signpost individuals to what they need, as well as hosting employer job events for our alumni to attend.

> Drop in advice and guidance

> Hotline > Website > Events

Instagram

@cafeworks.bce