

*In Studio Schools, how students learn is as important as what they learn.*



## WHAT IS A STUDIO SCHOOL?

Studio Schools are a new kind of school for 13-19 year olds, that are spreading fast in the UK and internationally. They take a very old idea - that many of us learn best when doing real work in teams - and apply it in new, purpose-built schools. Most of the curriculum is organised around practical projects, many run with national and local employers; each student has a personal coach; and there is systematic assessment of skills such as teamwork and problem-solving as well as subject-specific knowledge, including English, maths and science. The aim is to bridge the gap between what young people need to succeed in life and the skills and knowledge the current education system provides.

## STUDIO SCHOOLS ARE DIFFERENT

Studio Schools are small schools, with an average of 300 students at full capacity, which foster close-knit learning communities. They offer an environment for students and staff where learning is rigorous, creative and applicable to the real world. As a result, students not only gain the qualifications that employers value, but also become active learners and engaged citizens.

Studio Schools operate an extended school day and have enterprise and entrepreneurship at their heart. Studio Schools offer pathways linked to their local employer base, which range from creative and digital industries to STEM, health and social care, the space industries, and sport.

Walking into a Studio School it's soon apparent that they have a buzz that's very different from many mainstream schools.

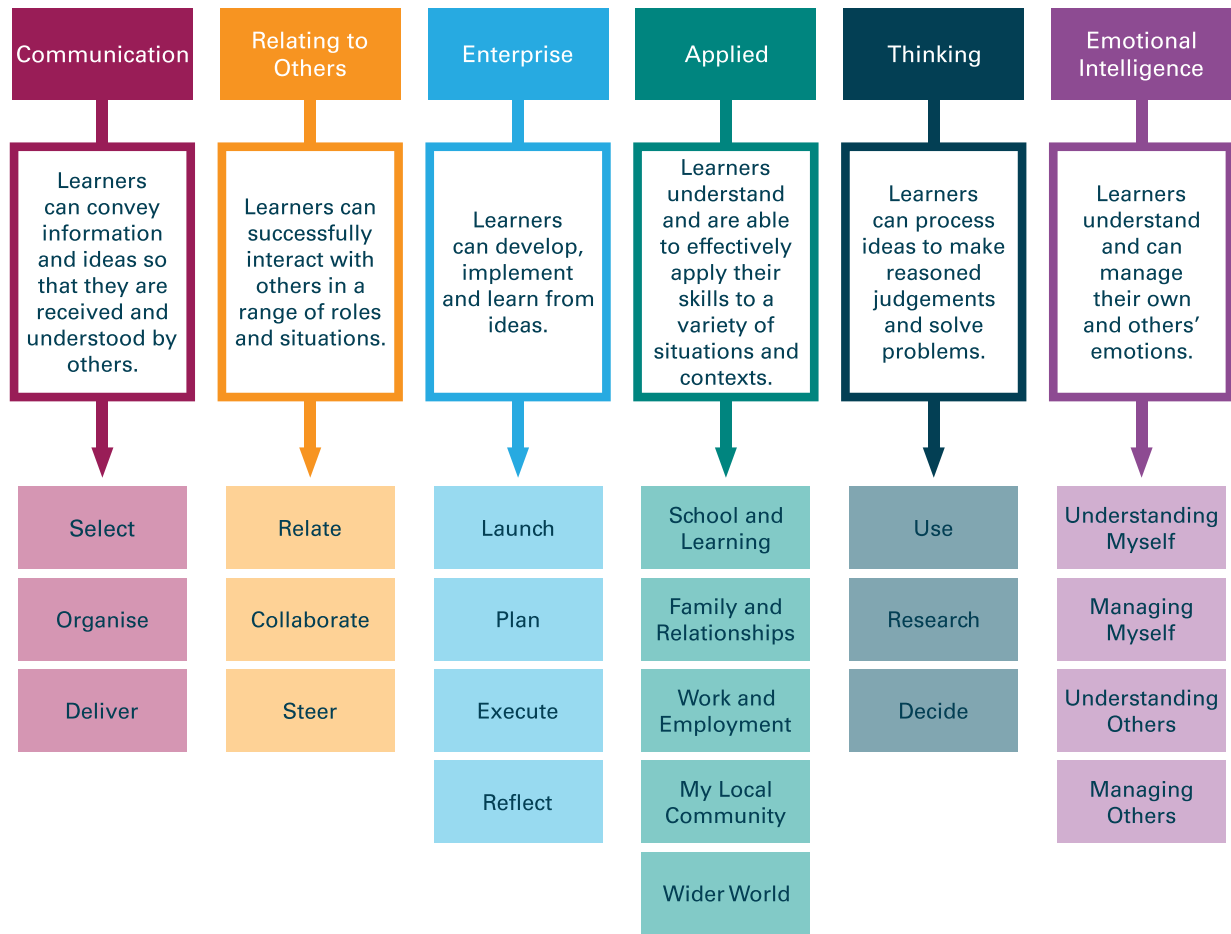
Key features of Studio Schools include:

**Project Based Learning:** Students gain traditional academic qualifications in line with the National Curriculum to age 16. Post-16 students pursue a range of academic, vocational and professional qualifications. Students learn primarily through multi-disciplinary project work applying their knowledge to real-world challenges.

### STAFF MEMBER - THE STUDIO, LIVERPOOL

*"The ability to deliver a curriculum in a uniquely challenging way through coaching and independent learning has given me scope to engage with active learners in ways that were not always possible within other mainstream secondary schools."*

**CREATE® Skills Framework:** Through the **CREATE®** Skills Framework students acquire key employability and life skills to be confident, resourceful, self-aware and adaptive. Students learn to think creatively, problem solve and apply their learning in project-based work.



**Personal Coaching:** In Studio Schools, personal coaching helps to build an aspirational school-wide culture of learning. Every student has a personal coach who ensures an individualised programme of learning to support each student's academic, social and personal development.

**Enterprise Connections:** Students work with employers to apply their learning and gain valuable experience through enterprise projects and work placements. Students spend a significant portion of their weekly time in real workplaces, with students aged over 16 earning a wage.



**EMPLOYER - WORKING WITH THE MIDLAND STUDIO COLLEGE**

*"The [students] are like a breath of fresh air, they are so positive and want to learn. I sometimes forget that these are 14 year olds; they display maturity above their age."*

## INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Studio Schools offer pathways in many industries including: Engineering; Science; Space; Marine Industries; Health & Social Care; Sport; Creative and Digital Media; Performing Arts; Enterprise; Finance; Logistics; Built Environment; and many more.

Hundreds of employers are supporting and working with Studio Schools including: Barclays; Sony; Dyson; The National Space Centre; MIRA; Astrium; NHS; National Trust; Sport England; Pinewood Studios; Tate; Crown Paints; Carillion; Asda; and RSPCA.

## STUDIO SCHOOLS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Studio Schools are already having a positive impact on student achievement. Recent Ofsted inspections reinforce that they are ahead of comparable secondary schools in the UK. An Oxford University/Institute of Education study noted that students displayed an emotional maturity beyond that of their peers in regular state schools. Employer and parental feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

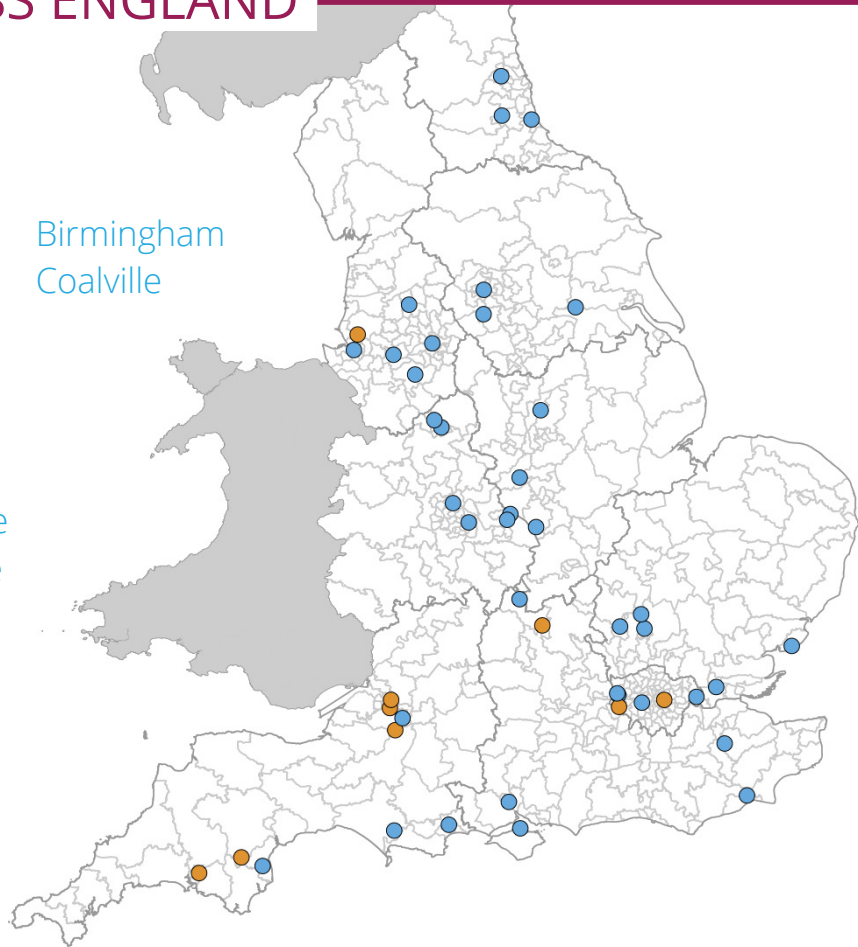
## STUDIO SCHOOLS ACROSS ENGLAND

There are 37 Studio Schools that have opened since 2010 in and around:

|             |               |           |            |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Banbury     | Basildon      | Bath      | Birmingham |
| Bournemouth | Bradford      | Clacton   | Coalville  |
| Darwen      | Devon         | Dorset    |            |
| Fulham      | Goole         | Hayes     |            |
| Hinckley    | Isle of Wight | Kirklees  |            |
| Knutsford   | Letchworth    | Liverpool |            |
| Luton       | Lutterworth   | Maidstone |            |
| Manchester  | Mansfield     | Newcastle |            |
| Nuneaton    | Ockendon      | Rye       |            |
| Southampton | Stevenage     | Stoke     |            |
| Walsall     | Warrington    |           |            |

A further 9 Studio Schools are set to open in 2015 in and around:

|          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Bicester | Bristol  | Dartmoor |
| London   | Plymouth | Sefton   |



### PARENT - THE MIDLAND STUDIO COLLEGE, HINCKLEY

*"I'm so pleased I made the switch for my daughter to start here. Personal coaching has been a huge benefit to her, in her emotional intelligence and her confidence."*



## SUPPORT FOR STUDIO SCHOOLS

Studio Schools are supported by, and work in partnership with many organisations including: local and national employers; the Department for Education; leading education agencies; sector skills councils; and third sector organisations. They have been endorsed by: the British Chambers of Commerce; CBI; Federation of Small Businesses; and Institute of Directors. Studio Schools enjoy cross party support; the model was launched by the last Labour government, and has expanded significantly under the Coalition.



## STUDIO SCHOOLS TRUST

We are the membership body that unites all Studio Schools, with HRH The Duke of York, KG as our Patron. The Trust helps share effective innovative practices and provides advice, programme development support, on-going training and professional development.

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Trust is a registered charity (No: 1130181). To learn more about the Trust and our work supporting Studio Schools, please visit our website or contact us:

0161 200 1630

[enquiries@studioschoolstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@studioschoolstrust.org)

[www.studioschoolstrust.org](http://www.studioschoolstrust.org)



### STUDENT - DA VINCI STUDIO SCHOOL

*"In my old school I didn't feel equipped for life; the future was always a really daunting, scary thing for me but in this school I feel armed going into a job environment and feel I can actually do well in life."*