

**Providing Access to  
High Quality Career  
Focused Education:**

BTEC Tech Awards  
Results  
October 2023





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# BTEC L1/2 Tech Award qualifications

BTECs are rigorous, future-focussed, and globally recognised qualifications that equip learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, behaviours, and confidence to succeed in a modern, skills-based economy. One in five UK working age adults have one or more BTECs, and 6 million learners have achieved a BTEC in the last decade.

The courses are developed hand-in-glove with employers. This approach ensures that not only are the learners set up for a successful transition into the workplace, but they will go into jobs that will help satisfy the UK economy's widening skills gaps.

Included in the class of 2023 are many future healthcare professionals, engineers and construction workers who are so vital to the UK's economy.

There is increasing demand from young people for BTEC courses in UK schools. The combination of traditional academic learning with vocational and transferable skills allows young people to prepare for the possibilities that will be opened to them as the careers of the future evolve.



# Introduction: Understanding the BTEC Tech Awards

## BTEC Tech Awards

- Level 1 and level 2 qualifications designed for **Key Stage 4** students in schools in England and **Northern Ireland** to study alongside GCSEs.
- They're **the same size as a single GCSE**.
- Their aim: to give students a taste of what a sector is like, and the skills and confidence to take their next steps.
- Designed to meet the DfE's guidance for **Key Stage 4 performance measures** in England to count in the 'Open group' (non-EBacc category) of Progress 8.

# Introduction: Understanding BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards give students the chance to discover their aptitude for a career in a particular sector and develop essential knowledge and skills.

Every BTEC Tech Award has the same three components:

**Component 1**

**Explore the  
sector**


**Component 2**

**Develop  
knowledge,  
skills and best  
practices**

**Component 3**

**Apply knowledge,  
skills and best  
practices**

These components build on each other to motivate your students by helping them put what they've learned into practice and grow in confidence.



# Context of the 2022/23 academic year

This academic year in line with the regulatory guidance from Ofqual the aim was to return to pre-pandemic performance standards and we had checks and balances in place to allow us to be sensitive to the disruption learners have faced.

BTEC courses have a different structure and design to academic qualifications – BTECs are modular qualifications (with assessments taking place throughout the course) compared to GCSEs and A levels which are linear (assessed and awarded at the same time at the end of the year).

The aim of all awarding bodies has been to ensure fairness for learners by neither advantaging or disadvantaging any one group of students compared to their peers. [Further information can be found here.](#)

When making comparisons to historical years we need to be mindful, as the context and aim of last academic year was to see it as a transition year before a return to pre-pandemic standards this academic year. There have also been significant changes in the cohort make-up and size from historical years.

As in every year, there was an appeals process in place.



# BTEC Tech Awards: Key Headlines

Five subjects (Performing Arts, Health & Social Care, Enterprise, Engineering and Creative Media) have been available since 2018-19, with certifications for six more subjects (Art & Design Practice, Child Development, Digital Information Technology, Music Practice, Sport, Travel & Tourism) available since 2019-20.

As 2022/23 is the final certification opportunity for these legacy Tech Awards (except for Engineering) entry patterns across the subjects has differed.

In line with this academic year being a return to pre-pandemic standards, outcomes have seen a slight decrease across many of the grades from 2021/22.



# Introduction: Understanding BTEC Tech Award Results

## Data definitions

The results publication for the BTEC Tech Awards only reports outcomes for completed qualifications. This means these results for the BTEC Tech Awards refer to those people claiming this academic year. Results from learners in all locations are included. This includes England, Wales, Northern Ireland, and all jurisdictions where we have a result for these qualifications in the academic years reported.

**What is a completion?** In these results, a completion refers to qualifications where a learner has been awarded a grade for the qualification, which can include U (unclassified).

**What is a Pass?** – These results also show figures for learners who have passed the qualification (achieved a Pass grade or above). Learners who have completed but not passed are awarded U. To pass, learners must have completed the qualification, passed the externally assessed units and achieved the required number of points on the qualification as a whole.

## Rounding

Numbers in these slides are generally rounded to the nearest multiple of 100. Smaller numbers may be rounded to the nearest 10.

## The 2022-23 academic year

The academic year for the purpose of this results publication is normally from 1 September to 31 August; results are grouped according to the academic year in which they complete the qualification.



2023  
Learner completions

BTEC Tech Awards

BTEC Tech Awards  
specifications for first  
teaching 2017



# BTEC Tech Awards - 140,000 learners completing

BTEC Tech Awards: completion – All 11 subjects

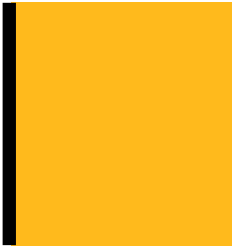
Sector	Completions		Change from previous year
	2021/22	2022/23	
Health And Social Care	37,900	40,500	+7%
Enterprise	28,500	29,600	+4%
Digital Information Technology	19,000	17,800	-6%
Performing Arts	19,100	16,200	-15%
Creative Media Production	10,800	10,200	-6%
Engineering	8,900	8,700	-2%
Sport, Activity And Fitness	5,700	5,300	-7%
Music Practice	3,100	3,200	+3%
Travel And Tourism	2,700	2,800	+4%
Child Development	2,200	2,400	+9%
Art And Design Practice	2,600	2,400	-8%

All eleven specifications for the BTEC Tech Awards had certifications in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

There have been both increases and decreases in the number of completions for 2022/23 across Tech Awards subjects.

Subjects which saw decreases last year (e.g. Health And Social Care and Enterprise) have this year seen increased numbers.

# The BTEC Tech Awards appeal to learners nationwide



Completions by region

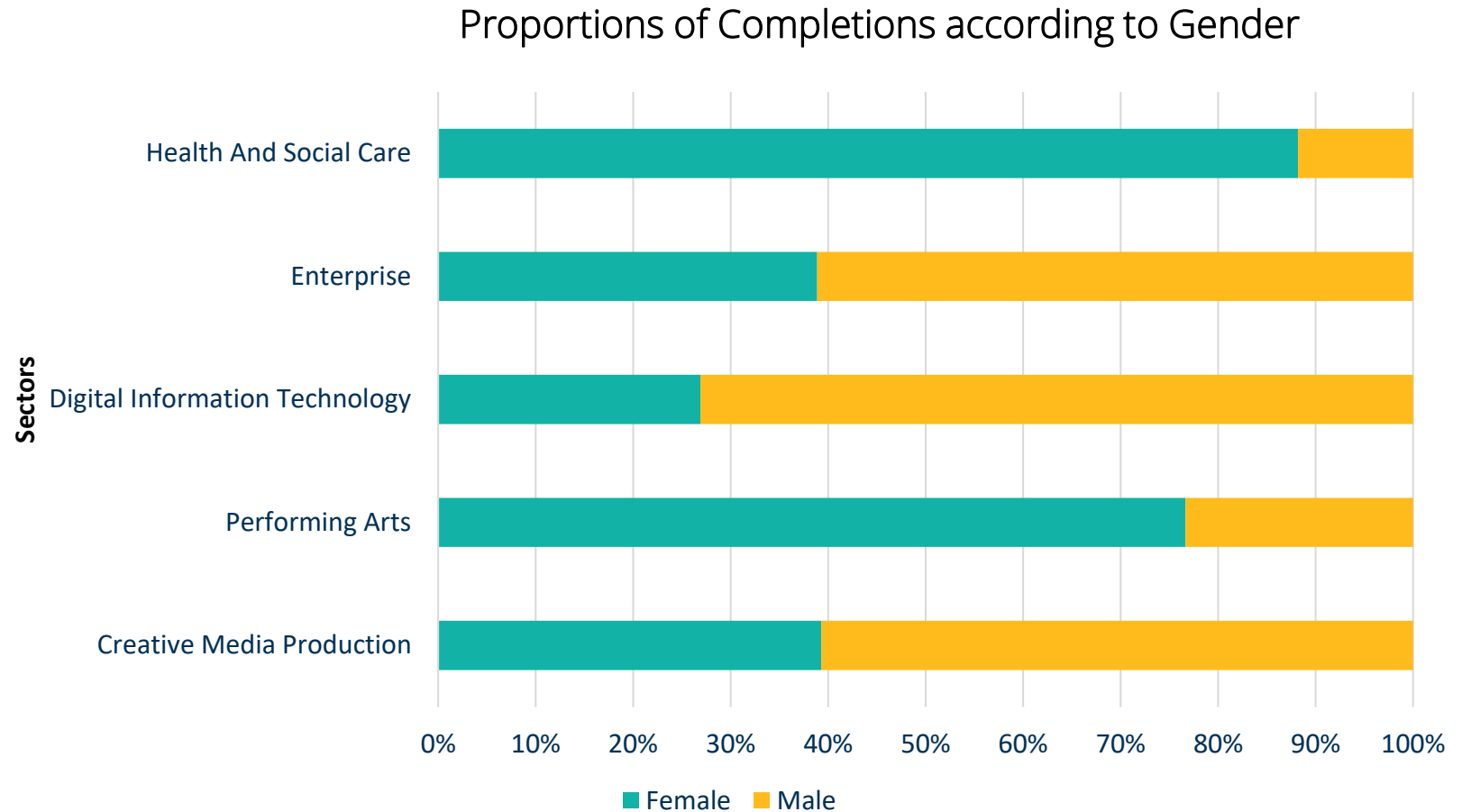


The West Midlands has the highest number of learners completing the Tech Awards, and South East England the next highest in 2022/23, as in 2021/22.

# Gender differences exist among subject choice

BTEC Tech Awards:  
2022/23 top five sectors  
by volume and gender

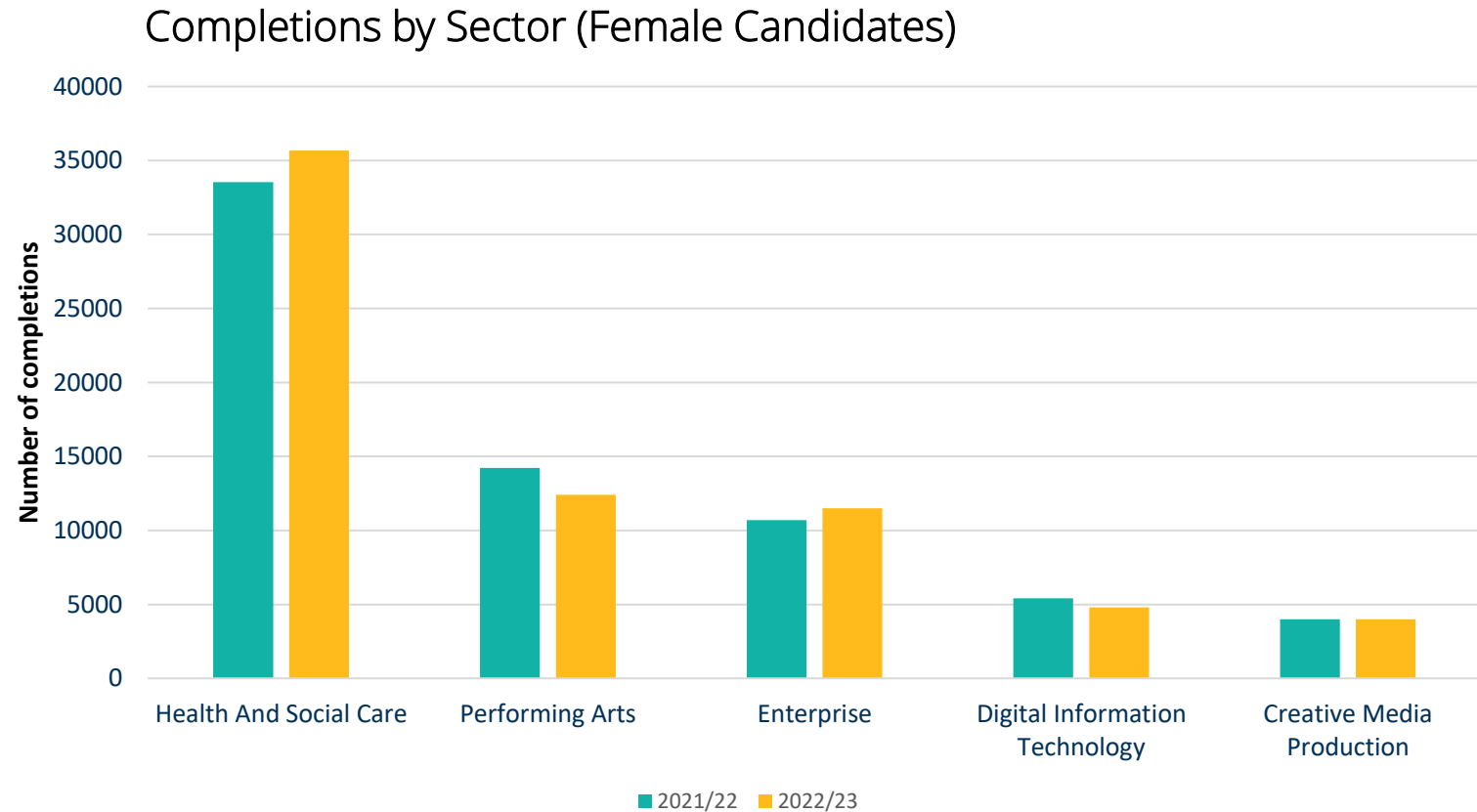
Learners taking Health and Social Care and Performing Arts are more likely to be female, while learners taking Enterprise, Digital Information Technology and Creative Media Production are more likely to be male.



# Number of completions: female learners

BTEC Tech Awards:  
2022/23 top five  
sectors for female  
candidates

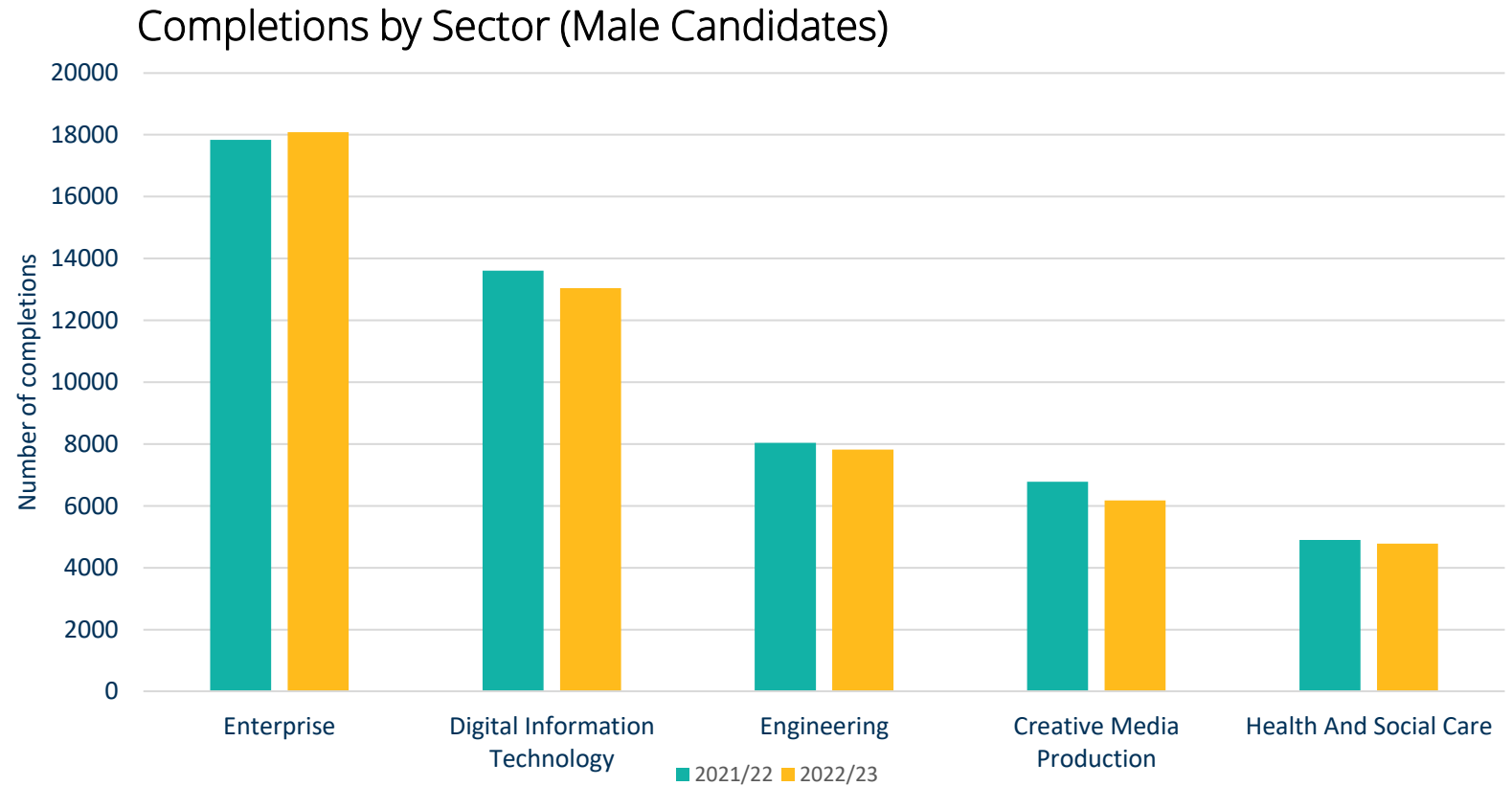
Learners taking Health  
and Social Care,  
Performing Arts and  
Enterprise are the  
most popular subjects  
with female learners.



# Number of completions: male learners

BTEC Tech Awards:  
2021/22 top five  
sectors by male  
candidates

Enterprise, Digital  
Information  
Technology, and  
Engineering are most  
popular with male  
learners.



# Learner achievement BTEC Tech Awards

**BTEC Tech Awards specifications  
for first teaching 2017**



# BTEC Tech Awards grades explained

Qualification Grade	Grade name
L2D*	Level 2 Distinction Star
L2D	Level 2 Distinction
L2M	Level 2 Merit
L2P	Level 2 Pass
L1D	Level 1 Distinction
L1M	Level 1 Merit
L1P	Level 1 Pass
U	Unclassified

## BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grades explained

Learners who pass the BTEC Tech Awards are awarded grades using the range from Level 1 Pass (L1P), the lowest qualifying grade, up to Level 2 Distinction Star (L2D\*), the highest.

Learners who have not met the standard for a Level 1 Pass are graded U (Unclassified).

NB a reminder that learners must achieve all components at Level 1 Pass or above in order to be awarded a qualification



# BTEC Tech Awards Results 2023 - achievement across the suite

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview

The table below shows the percentage of learners on each grade for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Year	Completions	L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
2021/22	140,500	7.4%	17.9%	19.0%	37.0%	10.4%	4.4%	1.6%	2.3%
2022/23	139,020	4.8%	20.8%	18.5%	36.1%	10.3%	4.4%	1.6%	3.6%

Grades at pass and above for this qualification suite are awarded as a single grade which also indicates whether the grade is at Level 1 or Level 2, e.g. L1D.

*The context and aim of awarding and grading in 2021/22 was to see it as a transition year with a stepped return to pre-pandemic standards. This academic year (2022/23) the aim has been to return to pre-pandemic standards, therefore comparisons to historical years should be viewed with caution.*

# BTEC Tech Awards Results 2022 - achievement across the suite by gender

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview by gender

The table below shows the percentage of learners on each grade for 2020/21 and 2021/22, split by gender.

Sector	Gender	Learners in the gender cohort	Gender cohort as a percentage of annual cohort	Percentage of gender cohort with each outcome							
				L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
2021/22	Female	76,900	54.7%	9.4%	21.6%	20.2%	34.6%	8.2%	3.2%	1.1%	1.8%
	Male	63,600	45.3%	5.0%	13.5%	17.6%	39.8%	13.0%	5.8%	2.3%	2.9%
2022/23	Female	77,600	55.8%	6.0%	24.7%	19.9%	33.9%	8.4%	3.3%	1.1%	2.8%
	Male	61,400	44.2%	3.2%	15.8%	16.8%	38.8%	12.8%	5.8%	2.1%	4.7%

Grades at pass and above for these qualification suite are awarded as a single grade which also indicates whether the grade is at Level 1 or Level 2, e.g. L1D.

# BTEC Tech Awards Results 2023 for each subject

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview

This table shows the percentage of learners who have achieved each grade.

Sector	Completions	L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
Health And Social Care	40,500	5.8%	22.4%	19.2%	34.8%	9.4%	4.2%	1.4%	2.8%
Enterprise	29,600	5.8%	21.8%	19.3%	33.7%	9.3%	4.3%	15%	4.2%
Digital Information Technology	17,800	2.8%	16.5%	16.3%	36.8%	13.4%	5.8%	2.4%	6.0%
Performing Arts	16,200	3.2%	24.6%	21.2%	38.1%	7.7%	2.6%	0.7%	2.0%
Creative Media Production	10,200	6.1%	18.9%	17.9%	39.5%	9.8%	3.6%	1.1%	3.1%
Engineering	8,700	3.3%	18.8%	17.4%	38.8%	11.8%	4.7%	1.7%	3.5%
Sport, Activity And Fitness	5,300	5.1%	20.8%	18.5%	33.6%	12.2%	4.5%	1.8%	3.5%
Music Practice	3,200	5.0%	16.7%	15.1%	41.6%	12.0%	5.4%	2.1%	2.1%
Travel And Tourism	2,800	1.1%	16.5%	13.9%	35.6%	14.2%	9.1%	3.6%	5.9%
Child Development	2,400	1.2%	19.1%	17.3%	37.1%	14.4%	4.2%	1.3%	5.4%
Art And Design Practice	2,400	5.2%	12.1%	14.2%	39.3%	15.9%	6.0%	2.3%	5.1%

The volume of learners varies across sectors and outcomes also vary across sectors. As with GCSEs, results are not expected to look similar across different subject areas.

# BTEC Tech Awards Results 2023 by gender

BTEC Tech Awards achievement: grade distribution overview by gender for the five most popular subjects.

This table shows the percentage of learners who have achieved each grade.

Sector	Gender	Learners in the gender cohort	Gender cohort as a percentage of annual cohort	Percentage of gender cohort with each outcome							
				L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	U
Health And Social Care	Female	35,700	88.1%	6.3%	23.9%	19.8%	34.3%	8.6%	3.5%	1.1%	1.5%
	Male	4,800	11.9%	2.4%	11.8%	14.7%	38.6%	15.3%	8.7%	4.0%	3.5%
Enterprise	Female	11,500	38.9%	7.6%	26.3%	20.3%	30.5%	7.4%	3.1%	0.9%	1.9%
	Male	18,100	61.1%	4.7%	19.0%	18.7%	35.8%	10.4%	5.0%	2.3%	2.6%
Digital Information Technology	Female	4,800	27.0%	4.8%	24.2%	18.1%	31.1%	10.5%	3.9%	0.5%	1.2%
	Male	13,000	73.0%	2.1%	13.7%	15.6%	38.9%	14.5%	6.4%	1.3%	1.7%
Performing Arts	Female	12,400	76.5%	3.7%	26.7%	22.0%	36.8%	6.5%	2.0%	1.8%	2.9%
	Male	3,800	23.5%	1.6%	17.6%	18.4%	42.3%	11.4%	4.5%	2.6%	3.9%
Creative Media Production	Female	4,000	39.2%	10.4%	26.8%	20.5%	31.4%	5.8%	2.3%	0.7%	1.5%
	Male	6,200	60.8%	3.3%	13.8%	16.2%	44.8%	12.4%	4.5%	1.7%	2.8%

The volume of learners varies across sectors and outcomes also vary across sectors. As with GCSEs, results are not expected to look similar across different subject areas.



Pearson