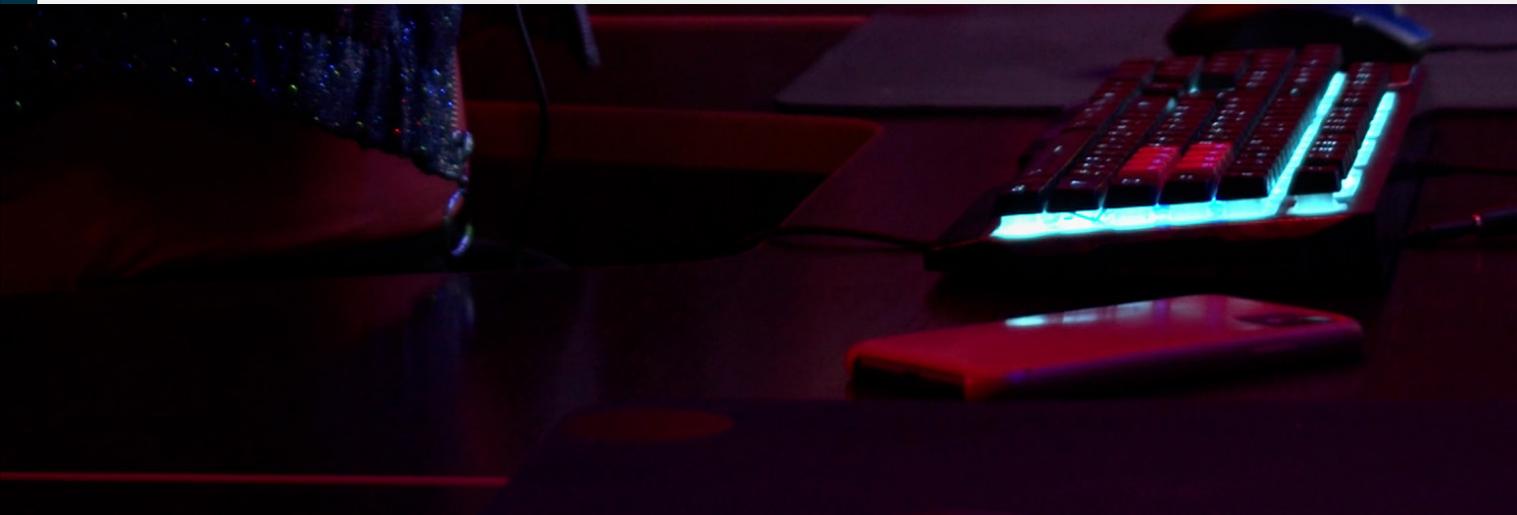
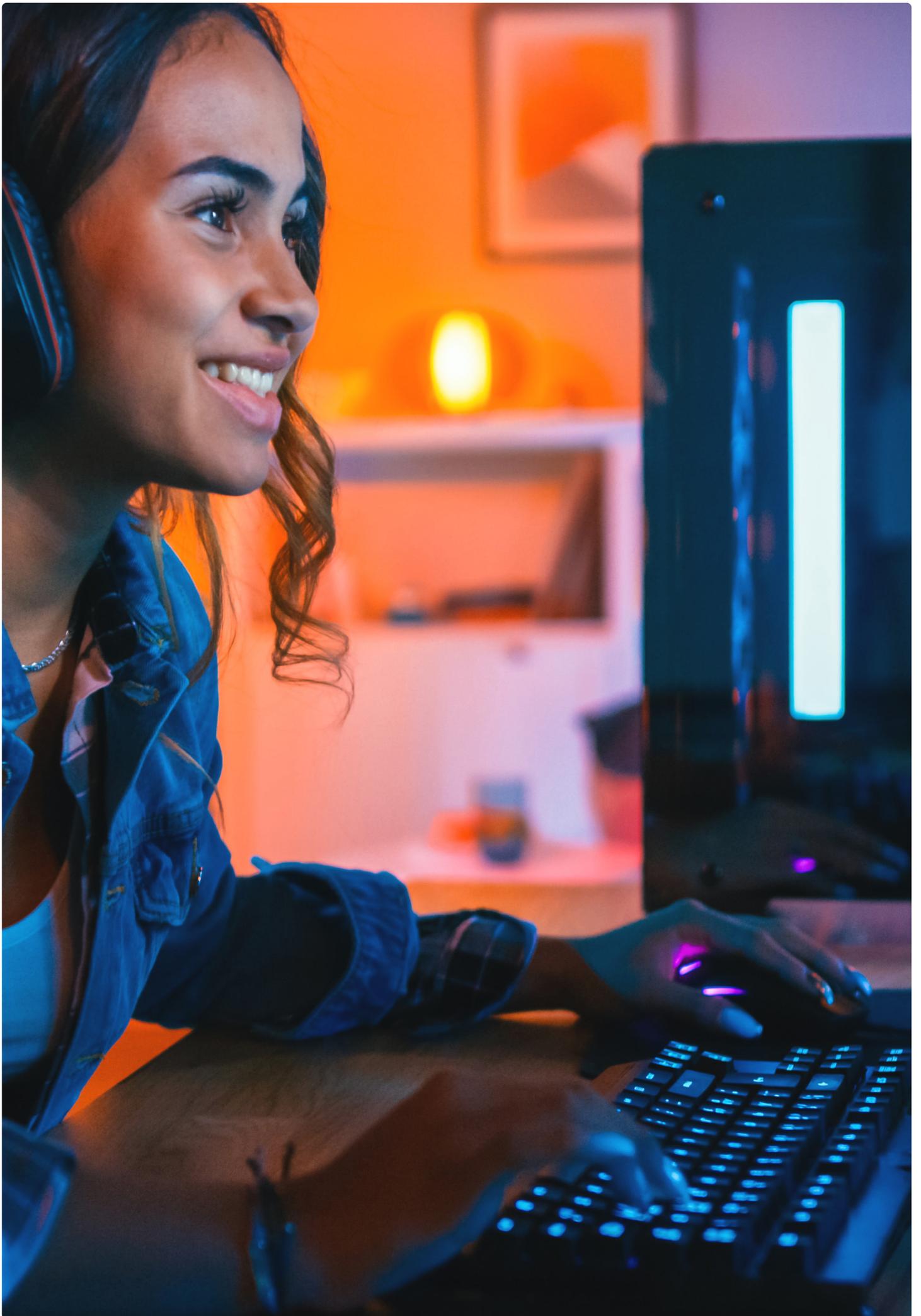




A parent's guide to
Esports

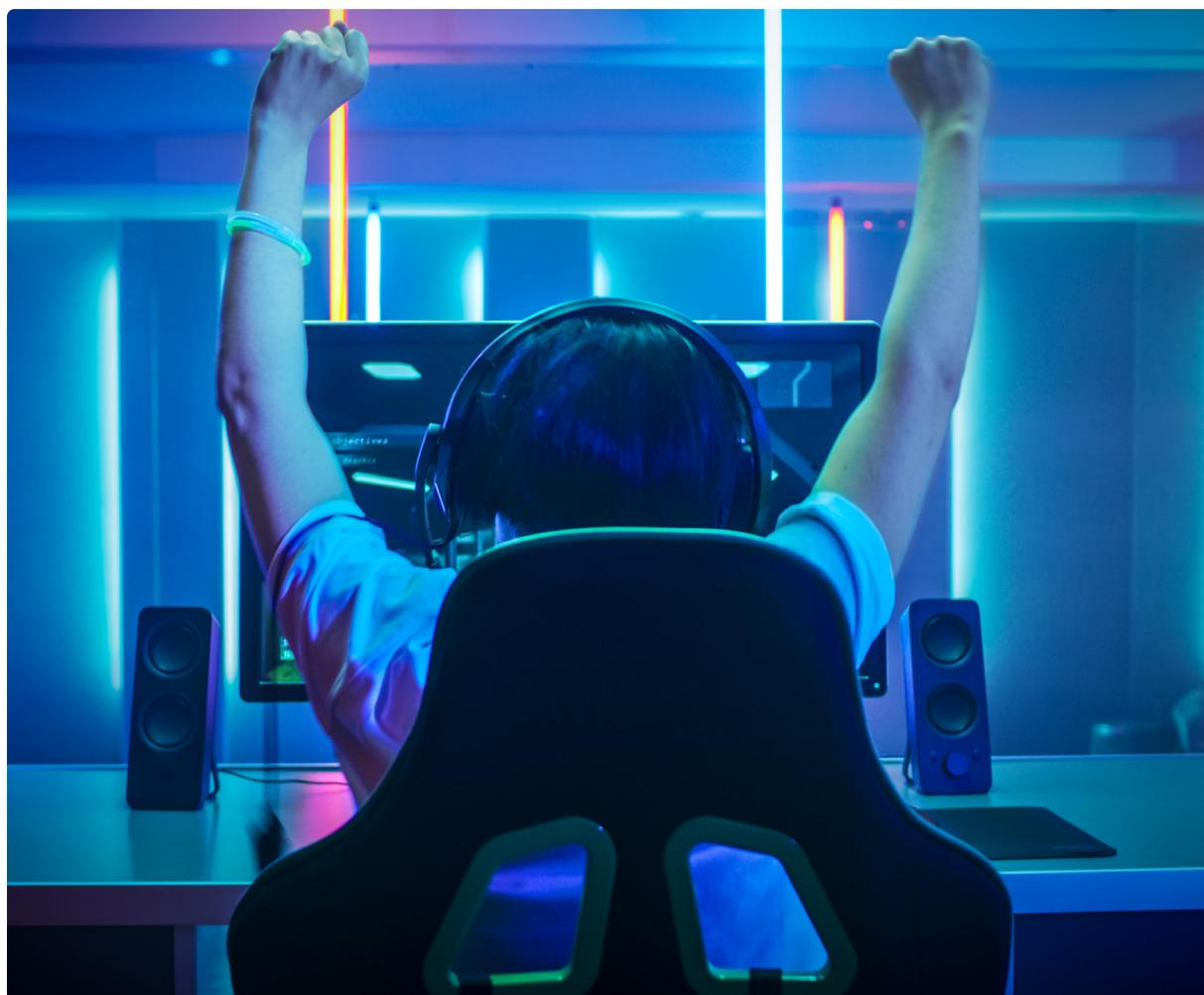


*Everything a parent or guardian needs to know about
competitive gaming and careers in esports*



A parent's guide to esports

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Esports is an exciting, new and growing industry. With over 2.69 billion active gamers worldwide and 81% of them being children, competitive video gaming is a larger part of young people's lives than ever before.

With esports on the rise, it is an area of great interest to many young people beyond just being a hobby. In this guide, we look at everything parents may want to know about esports including explanations of terminology, benefits of esports, career options, and how a Pearson BTEC International in Esports might be the right option to support your child's interest in esports as a career path or gateway to further education.



About Pearson

The world's learning company



Pearson, the world's learning company, has been educating minds for more than 50 years. We support tens of millions of learners every year, delivering products and services in over 200 countries and employ 20,000 people around the world.

We provide content, assessment and digital services to learners, educational institutions, employers, governments, and other partners globally. We are committed to helping equip learners with the skills they need to enhance their employability prospects and to succeed in the changing world of work or further and higher education. We believe that through learning, you can grow with the world around you.

For more information, visit [👉 **pearson.com**](https://www.pearson.com)

About the British Esports Association

The not-for-profit organisation established to promote and support grassroots esports



The British Esports Association is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2016 to support and promote esports in the UK. As a national body, its aims are to foster future talent, increase the awareness of esports and provide expertise and advice. It's focused on the grassroots level of esports and is not a governing body. The Association helps educate the masses – including parents, teachers, media and government – around what esports is and what its benefits are.

For more information, visit [👉 **britisheports.org**](https://www.britisheports.org)

Why choose a BTEC?



Gain transferable future-ready skills with a BTEC by Pearson.

Established in 1984, Pearson BTEC (Business Technology and Education Council) is a progressive framework of vocational courses and globally renowned qualifications and blended learning solutions that help develop a trained and highly skilled workforce.

From fundamental learning to professional courses at the postgraduate level, BTEC offers practical, hands-on learning experiences which embed the necessary skills to support each learner at every step of their career journey, whether they choose to take their skills straight into employment or further and higher education.



BTECs serve **1 million learners** in **50 countries** every year



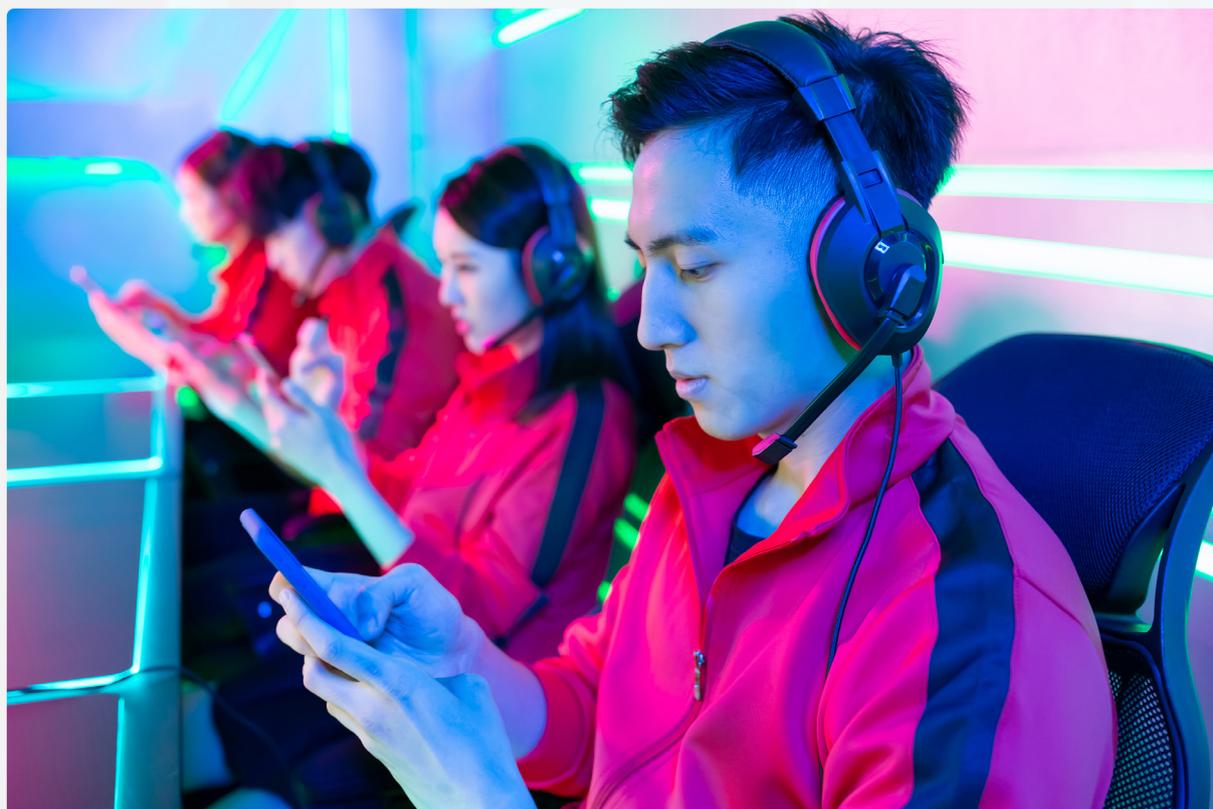
BTEC Higher Nationals serve **100,000 learners** annually and are equivalent to the first two years of a UK undergraduate degree



BTECs cover **15 sector verticals** and are **developed in partnership** with employers and sector bodies



Strategic partnerships such as the British Esports Association provide **content relevance, brand leverage and global reach**



What is Esports?

Esports is short for 'electronic sports'. Esports is organised, competitive, human-versus-human video-gaming where people play against each other online and at live spectator events. It can be played by both amateurs and professionals and is open to all, regardless of gender, physical or mental ability.

Think of esports as competitive video gaming, where skills and professionalism are celebrated. The pro gamers who play at this level know the games inside out, much like a professional footballer or athlete would in their respective fields.

Esports can be played on PCs, consoles and mobiles. Depending on the game, the format can be 1v1, 2v2, 3v3, 4v4, 5v5, 6v6 and so on. At the top level, leading global teams and players can earn significant sums in wages and prize money each year.

Esports can be team-based and is always played against another person or people, therefore it is more social and more beneficial than the stereotypical perceptions of solo video-gaming.

Over 104 countries around the world recognise esports as a sport.

To give a sense of the scale of esports, some of the biggest tournaments offer millions of pounds in prizes (like the Dota 2 International and Fortnite World Cup which offer \$30m and upwards as a cash prize) and are watched by millions of fans. These are the exception, however. Other tournaments may have a \$1m prize pool or less; amateur tournaments can often have prizes and viewers in the low thousands or hundreds, rather than millions.





Skills esports helps learners to develop

Esports and video gaming have developed negative stigmas over the years. You may be worried your child is on their console too much or believe they may not be learning anything by playing video games.

However, esports engages a wide demographic of young people and contrary to belief it is intrinsically a fun, team-building activity that promotes leadership, character development, communication, and social skills.

It can improve confidence, strategic thinking, problem solving abilities, reading comprehension and phonics skills and can also help with the development of digital and cyber skills.

These skills can be transferred across into physical sports and schoolwork, and esports offers a multitude of career pathways. It can also boost behaviour, concentration, and attendance levels in schools.

Finally, when played in moderation, video games and esports can be good for mental health - they are fun to play and can be a stress-reliever.

To learn more about the benefits of esports, check out this
[**➤ *Myth Busting Infographic***](#)

What are the career prospects within esports?

Esports has created many new jobs around the world - and the numbers are continuing to grow. In 2020 it is estimated that the creation of new full-time esports roles increased by 118%.

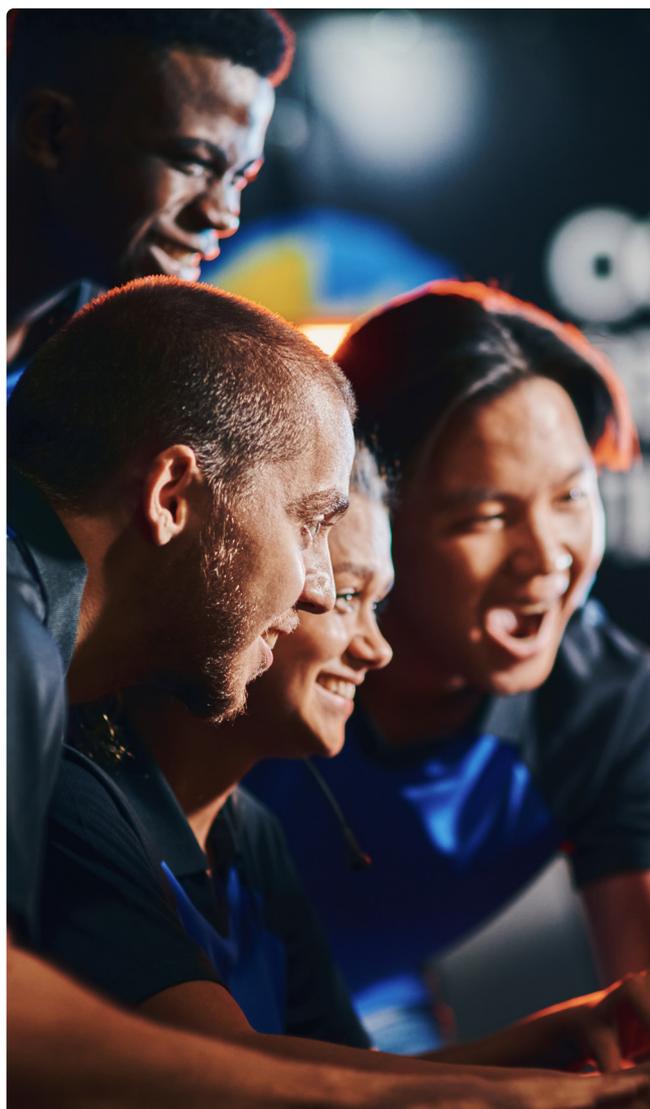
When some people think of esports, they think of pro gamers - the players that compete at the top level, earning thousands, or even millions of pounds. That is great, but esports offers so much more than this too. Like traditional sports, there are commentators, event managers, journalists, content creators, photographers, coaches, sales and marketing executives and many others.

Here is a snapshot of some of the distinct roles within the industry:

- Coach – including fitness trainers, nutritionists, psychologists
- PR/ marketing executive
- Sales/ partnerships manager
- Business management
- Production crew
- Shoutcaster/ host
- Journalist/ content creator
- Product Manager
- Admin/ referee
- Community/ social media manager
- Event manager
- Professional esports player

Download our [👉 Esports careers pathway infographic](#) for more information on the various roles available

Having an interest or skills in esports can also pave the way to other careers. For example, the wider video game industry is expected to grow to some \$180 billion by the end of 2021, with the global games audience estimated at between 2.2 and 2.6 billion people. This offers many additional career options, like games development, publishing, streaming and more.



How a BTEC in esports can transform your child's passion for gaming into a successful career

About Pearson BTEC

A Pearson BTEC is so much more than just a qualification - BTECs focus on the complete development of the practical, interpersonal, and thinking skills required to be successful in employment and further education. Our qualifications have been developed in partnership with educators, employers, and governments, and supply a flexible pathway - combining knowledge, skills and their application to real-life scenarios. This practical approach allows BTEC learners to develop and apply their skills in real-life scenarios and enables learners to develop the employability skills that modern businesses and employers need, and universities are looking for.

About Pearson BTEC International Level 3 in Esports

The Pearson BTEC International Level 3 qualifications in Esports are designed for learners in the 16-19 age group, who wish to pursue a career in esports via higher education or directly into employment.

With units such as: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Strategy and Analysis, Events Management, Live-streamed Broadcasting, Video Production, Shoutcasting, Coaching, Health and Wellbeing, the Law and Legislation, Computer Networking and more, this course enables learners to enter careers in the esports or digital industries, by upskilling their skills for future careers or progress to further and higher education.

What transferable skills are learnt with a BTEC International?



Teamwork



Leadership



Communication



Analytical Skills



Strategic Thinking



Problem Solving



Decision Making



Dexterity



Multi-tasking



Processing Ability



Reaction Times



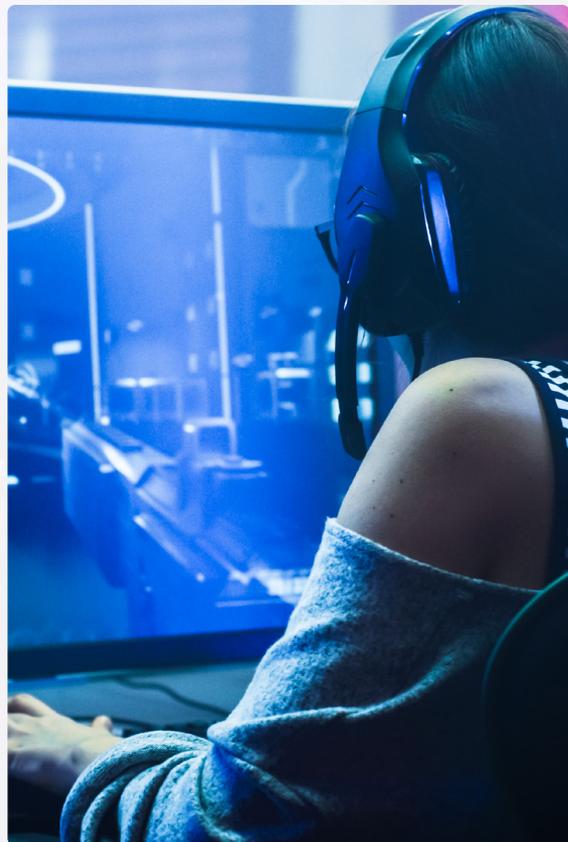
Cyber Skills

Considerations: tips to help keep your child safe online

As with everything in life, it is important to understand the risks and considerations associated with esports and video gaming. Video gaming should be consumed in moderation and with online gaming it is important for your child to know how to be digitally safe when interacting with other players.

Here are some tips to help your child stay safe online:

- **Never reveal your personal details, login information or contact information** to strangers you have met online, or arrange to meet someone you only know online. This includes joining things like WhatsApp groups with people you have not met, which reveals your mobile number to everyone in the group
- **Be aware of your digital footprint.** Avoid publicly posting information that can reveal personal details, for example location of your street
- **Set limits** - have a schedule and try to stick to it
- **Take breaks regularly**
- **Be polite and respectful to other players.** Think before you post and type - is this something you would say in real life?
- **Consider who is or could be on the other end of the screen.** If someone is being toxic or abusive to you online, avoid retaliating. Consider muting them, blocking them, and reporting them using in-game tools
- **Avoid the use of services that break a game's terms of service,** for example gold farming or boosting. Buying accounts is usually not only illegal but in some cases, these can be shut down long after the account has been bought or sold, leaving you out of pocket and without an account to play on
- If you are ever unsure of anything, ask your parent/guardian, teacher, or close/trusted adult first.



Next steps: how to support your child's interest in esports

There are many things you can do! Why not start by sitting down with them and playing the games they enjoy together?

- Look at their favourite games and do some research in this space. Have a look at livestreaming platform Twitch at the people and esports tournaments involved in that game.
- Talk to them about what they want to do in esports and see if there is anything you can do to help, for example taking them to an event.
- Speak to them about studying or pursuing a career in esports if it is something wish to do
- Keep learning and educating yourself on exciting news within the industry, there is always something to learn

Use our [👉 international centre finder](#) to locate a centre near you offering a BTEC in esports



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