

Studio schools are pioneering schools which receive funding as well as support from private businesses, and which seek to encourage young people to undertake a less conventional form of secondary education. These schools often specialise in one specific area, whilst understanding that the same broad range of skills and qualifications should be made available to all young people. One such school has recently opened to educate fourteen- to eighteen-year-olds who have a special interest in working in the space industry. Students follow a tailor-made curriculum at the school, including subjects such as Astronomy and Astrophysics. Lessons are a mixture of small-class tutorials, with projects supervised by leading companies in both the space and technology industries. Prominent scientists and engineers are brought in as guest lecturers, with students aiming to achieve top grades in their Maths and Science exams. When they leave school, they will be well-placed to take any number of different career paths. 'They don't have to become astronauts!' says a spokesperson for the school. 'Excellent grades in science and technology subjects can open many doors and lead to a variety of career opportunities.'