


ACADEMY TRUST	<div>Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)</div> <div></div>				
Course Description	This fun and informal course, designed for hearing people to learn fingerspelling and basic conversation, to enable communication with the deaf and hard of hearing or for their own interest. Over the 10 weeks many different and interesting topics will be covered.				
Start Date	22 nd Sep 2025 12 th Jan 2026 20 th Apr 2026	Day & Time	Monday 18:30 – 20:30	Venue	Cambourne Village College
Tutor Details	Caron Peaurt - I have been enjoying and teaching sign language for over 20 years, this beautiful and fascinating language never ceases to amaze me. My own journey of discovery continues, there is so much more to learn and achieve.				
No. of wks	10	Terms	3		
Fee	FREE*/£122 (see eligibility criteria below)	Concessionary Fee	FREE*/£92 (see eligibility criteria below)		
Course Level:	Mixed ability		x		
	Level 1, Level 2 (equiv. to GCSE / NVQ2)				
	Level 3 Equivalent GCE A Level				
Skills or qualifications needed for entry into the class			No special skills		
Course aims & objectives					
Using British Sign Language, the course will enable students to gain a level of skill to converse socially with the deaf and the hard of hearing.					
Topics covered can include Fingerspelling, Useful words, Family members, Animals/Pets, Questions/Answers, Hobbies/Activities, Colours, Clothes, Descriptions, Weekdays, Months, Events, Descriptive words, Emotions, Numbers, Time, Food and Drink and Understanding the importance of facial expressions, handshapes, timelines and tips for fluency.					

At the end of 10 weeks participants will be able to: Demonstrate fingerspelling with confidence and be able to engage in short conversations with people who sign. Retaining and applying signs taught over 10 weeks comfortably.

Please note this is a non-qualification course.

Progression – after this course what might you do next?

Students can progress to BSL Level 1. If successful in achieving Level 1, then further BSL qualifications are available. These advanced courses are taught by someone who is deaf. Tutor can assist with further information.

How progress & success will be recorded

All participants must complete a weekly log of learning to record progress (ILP). The tutor will discuss your log individually and confidentially to assist further progress and pick up any difficulties or areas where you might require further help.

There will be individual and group teaching games, handouts, sign-singing (SSE) and observations, which will help the tutor monitor progress.

You are required to complete a weekly diary, known as an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Additional course costs (e.g. visits, materials, books, equipment)

Additional costs depend on if you wish to purchase any books but please discuss with tutor first if you are thinking of purchasing anything, the tutor will be able to advise.

Materials/equipment required for first class

Please bring photographic ID and Passport to the first class, this is part of the funding and audit requirements for a free course.

Pencil, paper and a folder would be ideal as handouts and information will be provided.

Contact for further information

Adult Education: 01223 264721
commed@combertonvc.org

Funding

This course is funded through the Adult Education Budget allocated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and part financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) programme. This funding is managed by Cambridgeshire County Council, Adult Learning and Skills. A short video covering the background of ESF, what it does, how it helps and who benefits is available on the European Union website: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp>

Eligibility criteria *

To qualify for a FREE place on this course, you must be eligible for us to claim funding to cover the costs. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The Authority has introduced the earnings threshold as part of a new eligibility criteria that enables you to be fully funded if you earn below £30,491, on the start date of the course
- Aged 19 or older on 31 August 2025
- You are a citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) or other countries determined within the EEA, including those with bilateral agreements such as Switzerland, or have settled status or the Right of Abode in the UK **AND**
- have been ordinarily resident in the EEA or other countries determined within the EEA, including those with bilateral agreements such as Switzerland, for at least the previous 3 years on the first day of learning (currently does not apply to Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine)
- You must attend regularly, more than 75% of the classes
- You must complete an enrolment form to join the course in the first instance and an individual learning plan (ILP) on a weekly basis

If you do not qualify for a free course, then you can attend by paying the relevant fee. Please note, we can arrange a payment schedule of instalments for this course.

Enrolment and Payment

Enrolment and payment

Enrolments in person, for all our courses, can take place from our office based at Comberton Village College. Please note, the quickest way to enrol onto a class will be to visit our website and follow the online booking links from there. Enquiries can also be made by emailing commed@combertonvc.org or calling our office on 01223 264721.

We are a cashless school. We accept card and cheque payments (made payable to The Cam Academy Trust), from our office based in Comberton Village College. Online enrolments can be paid directly in GBP (Sterling) via a secure server over the internet by debit or credit card. Online enrolment will ask for additional information that will enable us to register you, on your chosen course and allocate your payment accordingly.

Your debit/card details will be encrypted via a payment processing company Stripe, payment information is not held on college servers. If you are paying online for a course, you will also be asked for contact information to be provided. This information will be held by the college, so we are able to contact you if required.

For further information on Stripe and its privacy policy
<https://stripe.com/gb/privacy>

For further information on how we use your data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-key-stage-4-and-5-and-adult-education>

Secure payment links for courses, can also be sent out via emails or text messages. This process would involve you being notified in advance, of a secure link due to be sent shortly afterwards.

If required card payments, in person, can also be taken at the beginning of each term, via a portable payment system.

Refunds

If you choose to withdraw your booking, at least 2 weeks before the start date of a course, a refund will be given, minus a £5 administrative charge. Refunds are only available in the event of course cancellation or early closure from the college.

Classes cancelled by the college due to unforeseen circumstances, will be replaced with an extra class at the end of the course, whenever possible. For comprehensive details, please refer to our fees and refund policy which can be found on our website.

Concessionary Fees

A 25% discount is available for those in receipt of JSA/ESA, Universal Credit, Carers Allowance or a social care assessment (EHCP/PIP), evidence must be provided on enrolment. Most of our courses display two fees, the concessionary fee is the lower amount advertised. It is also possible to pay the fees for a course by instalments, please contact us directly for details.

Equalities statement

We are fully committed to equality of opportunity and welcome enrolments from all adults aged 19+ (on 31 August 2025). We positively encourage all learners with any concerns about specific needs which might affect their learning to discuss their requirements with us in confidence. We believe that everyone is entitled to learn in an environment that is free from discriminatory behaviour so that we build a community based on mutual trust and respect. We will do our best to ensure that resources and equipment are accessible to all and make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all learners can access activities.

Cambridgeshire County Council, Adult Learning and Skills service supports a wide range of other adult learning opportunities across Cambridgeshire to support adults with the lowest level of qualifications or no qualification at all, and so typically find themselves in lower paid, less secure jobs or unemployed. Search their website **www.cambsals.co.uk** for details of all their funded courses.

Safeguarding Statement

Arrangements have been made to make sure that you are safe at our Centres. If you feel you are not safe for any reason, for example through verbal or physical abuse or you have been discriminated against, please tell your tutor or the Centre Manager, who will investigate to ensure your safety.

Calendar (Please check start date of specific courses)

Autumn Term Half term 27th Oct – 31st Oct 2025

Spring Term Half term 16th Feb – 20th Feb 2026

Summer Term Half term 25th May – 29th May 2026

