

Course Title	 Dressmaking For Beginners				
Course Description	Learners will be taught everything to be able to construct a garment with the use of a commercial pattern and a domestic sewing machine. They will learn pattern markings and terminology, how to make alterations to the pattern to ensure a good fit of their garment, lay planning and mark up before cutting into your chosen fabric. Demonstrations, guidance and support from the tutor in helping to use the sewing machine and its functions to be able to carry out dressmaking techniques, and sample making, enhancing your sewing skills to assemble your finished garment professionally.				
Start Date	14 th Jan 2026	Day & Time	Wednesday 7.00pm-9.00pm	Venue	Comberton Village College
Tutor Details	Leonie Rose has been pattern cutting and sewing for 20 years. She studied at clothing manufacturing and Fashion design & illustration at Banfield College and was awarded a City & Guilds Gold Medal for Excellence. Leonie furthered her studies at The University of the Arts, London College of Fashion graduating with a BA Hons Fashion Design Technology. Having worked in the industry as a pattern cutter and Garment Technologist Leonie has since gone on to have her own clothing brand. With a PTLLS Level 4 qualification Leonie enjoys passing on her knowledge, skills and expertise of her practice to help bring out learner's aspirations and creativity.				
No. of wks	5	Terms	1		
Fee	£71	Concessionary Fee			
Course Level:	Mixed ability			✓	
	Level 1, Level 2 (equiv. to GCSE / NVQ2)				
	Level 3 Equivalent GCE A Level				

Skills or qualifications needed for entry into the class	You should have an interest in dressmaking using commercial patterns, basic sewing skills will help but no previous skills or qualifications are required.
Course aims & objectives	
Acquire and practice some dressmaking skills and apply them. By the end of the course learners should: • Know how to use and set functions on a domestic sewing machine and or overlocker. • Understand the pattern markings and terminology in how to use a commercial dressmaking pattern. • Understand the importance of a well fitted garment. • Understand trimmings required in the garment make up e.g., interlining, stay tape etc. • Develop a variety of dressmaking skills e.g. inserting zips, sewing different seam finishes, pockets, hems etc. • Carry out some hand stitching skills. • Know how to assemble a garment in the correct order. • To complete a wearable garment of your choice at the end of the course.	
Progression – after this course what might you do next?	
Continue with other dressmaking courses to make and create garments including more advanced skills, techniques and fitting issues. Leonie is also running a beginners pattern cutting course in September 2025 and a sew with jersey course in April 2026, which may be beneficial to attend alongside this course.	
How progress & success will be recorded	
Q & A, 1-1 discussions/feedback and reviews. Completed samples and garments to be kept by the learners.	
Additional course costs (e.g. visits, materials, books, equipment)	
To make a garment you will need to purchase your chosen commercial pattern, fabric and sewing tools/equipment. This information is given as a checklist prior to the start of the course. Each student will also need at least 2-2.5 meters of fabric to make their samples, an old cotton sheet or quilt cover is ideal. Calico/pattern cutting paper is available to purchase from the tutor: Extra wide plain tracing paper - £4.5 for 3 meters. Calico fabric - £6 for 2 meters.	

Materials/equipment required for Dressmaking for beginners class	Tools and equipment requirements will be discussed in the first session, please bring a note pad and pen to make notes during all sessions. Equipment requirements will include: • Learner's own domestic sewing machine or domestic overlocker with pedal foot/power cord and accessories such as bobbins and a bobbin case and spare sewing machine needles. • A commercial Pattern - (Burda, Butterick, Kwik Sew, McCall's, New Look, Simplicity, Vogue Patterns, Tilly and The Buttons) • Fabric of your choice (information will be found on the reverse of your chosen commercial pattern) • 1 spool of sewing thread in your chosen colour to match your fabric (if only using a domestic sewing machine) • 3-4 spools of thread in your chosen colour to matching your fabric (if using an overlocker) • Tracing paper (if you wish to not cut your commercial pattern) • Camera/Smart phone (to record the process) • Calculator • 2H or 2B pencil and sharpener or a mechanical pencil • Pencil Eraser • Biro's in Blue, Red and Green - or pens in various colours • Glue Stick • Masking Tape or Magic scotch tape • Paper Scissors • Fabric Scissors • Thread cutting scissors or Snippers • Seam unpicker • Metric tape measure Ruler • Ruler (60 cm or 1 meter) • Fine Steel dressmaker pins • Set Square or Pattern Master • Tracing Wheel
Contact for further information	Community Education: 01223 264721 commed@combertonvc.org

Enrolments in person, for all our courses, can take place from our office based at Comberton Village College. Please note, the quickest way to enroll 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 behavior 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