Specialist secondary schools

About 90% of state secondary schools in England now specialise in one or two subjects. The students have extra activities in these subjects. A lot of schools specialise in Science, I.C.T. and Maths, but some schools also specialise in Art, Drama, Music, Languages, Sport, Business Studies and Engineering.

Pippa, 13

‘I go to Hartshill Secondary School. It’s a specialist Music school. Music is a very important subject in the curriculum. At my school we learn to read and write music and a lot of students play a musical instrument. I play the flute and I’m in the school orchestra. We have concerts at Christmas and in the summer. We also go on school trips to the opera or to classical music concerts.

The school has a lot of after-school music clubs, too. I go to Rock Club. At Rock Club we learn to play different instruments. I play the guitar there. It’s fun!’
Jack, 14

‘My school is a specialist Sports school. Our school’s got some great sports facilities. There’s a big sports hall, an athletics track, a basketball court and football and rugby pitches. We do sport in our P.E. lessons twice a week, but there are also a lot of cool sports clubs before and after school.

I play rugby and I’m in the school rugby team. We have rugby practice on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and we have rugby matches against other schools on Saturday mornings.’
Callum, 16

‘I go to Ashfield Technology College. It’s a big secondary school and it specialises in I.C.T. We have about 1,200 Netbook computers at our school. That’s one for every student! We use them a lot in our lessons and we also do some of our homework online. A computer programme corrects our homework and sends the marks to our teacher! We email our classmates and teachers about school work and projects. After school on Mondays I go to a computer club.’