


Course Title	<p style="text-align: center;">Dressmaking Mixed Ability</p>				
Course Description	<p>Learners will be guided through the purchase of fabrics and patterns. They will learn how to make basic pattern alterations, cut out, assemble, and fit their garments. As well as this they will be taught basic dressmaking techniques and make samples to practice their skills. There will be plenty of help with using sewing machines if required. More advanced learners will be encouraged to make more complicated garments.</p>				
Start Date	23 rd Sep 2025 13 th Jan 2026 28 th April 2026	Day & Time	Tuesday 4.30pm-6.30pm 7.00-9.00pm	Venue	Cambourne Village College
Tutor Details	<p>Sally Tilley has been dressmaking domestically and commercially for the past 30 years. She studied at Loughborough College of Art and worked briefly as a fashion designer before moving into teaching textiles. Since leaving the industry she has continued to take on commission work and teach dressmaking workshops.</p>				
No. of wks	10/10/9	Terms	3		
Fee	£141	Concessionary Fee	£106		
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		None			
Course aims & objectives					
<p>Acquire and practice some dressmaking skills and apply them. By the end of the course learners should:</p> <p>Beginners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ know how to use a lockstitch sewing machine ✓ know how to use a domestic dressmaking pattern ✓ understand the importance of a well fitted garment ✓ know how to assemble a garment in the correct order ✓ develop a variety of dressmaking skills e.g. inserting zips, different seam finishes, pockets, hems etc. 					

Intermediates:

- ✓ appreciate how to use a variety of fabrics e.g. stretch
- ✓ develop a variety of dressmaking skills to produce a professional finish e.g. attaching collars, cuffs, pockets, button etc.
- ✓ be able to make garments including more complicated skills and processes

Advanced:

- ✓ work on achieving a professional finish to garments
- ✓ make more complicated garments e.g. coats, jackets etc.
- ✓ alter patterns
- ✓ use luxurious fabrics
- ✓ work more independently

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.

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

To make a garment you will need to purchase fabric, pattern and a sewing kit, this includes stitch scissors, dressmaking shears, steel pins and a tape measure. All of these will be discussed in the first session. Each student will also need at least one metre of fabric to make their samples, an old sheet or quilt cover is ideal.

Materials/equipment required for first class

You will need to bring a tape measure, pencil & pen, an old sheet or quilt cover to make samples. The tutor advises all beginners not to buy a pattern and fabric before the first session.

Contact for further information

Adult Education: 01223 264721
commed@combertonvc.org

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