

Introduction

Post 16 at Beechcliffe School comprises the school years 12, 13, and 14 and is the equivalent to most secondary school's sixth forms. One distinction is our three-year Post 16 programme includes a year 14 which means that most of our students do not leave until the end of the academic year of their 19th birthday. We operate in our own distinct area of school which gives Post 16 as strong and positive identity. Beechcliffe delivers the government's curriculum strategy of 14-19 Study Programmes and the pathways encompassed within Preparation for Adulthood. Students follow a programme that stretches them, prepares them for adulthood, and supports their progression into work or further study. Our programme features academic learning, vocational study and personal development. Beechcliffe School provides a range of appropriate learning opportunities in each of these areas.

Structural factors in the organisation of Post 16 Curriculum.

Pupils are taught at different times in both mixed ability groups reflecting the generic nature of the school and also in ability based groups for certain subjects. Within Post 16 frequent opportunities are given for pupils of all ages and from across the ability range to work and learn together. For the core academic subjects of English, Maths and ICT, ability based groups operate comprised of students of different ages. For Life Skills and Vocational activities groups are of mixed age and mixed ability. For Performing Arts the groups are of mixed ability and are vertically streamed containing pupils from across the entire age range of the school 11-19. Teaching is delivered from differentiated programmes of study planned to meet the learning needs of the students within each group. Teaching across the curriculum is planned for using long term curriculum plans that are broken down into Medium Term Planning (MTP) units which outline the learning objectives and activities on a half-termly or term by term basis. All learning activities in Post 16 are contextualised with the stipulation of a 'WALTB' – "We are learning this because...", so that pupils understand that their learning is purposeful within the context of real life skills and that the outcome is to enhance their future young adult lives.

Vocational Study

All Post 16 students participate in a range of vocational and enterprise based studies to provide them with opportunities to develop their life skills and independence. We offer three main strands of study in the areas of Hospitality & Catering, Horticulture and Enterprise activities. Our Hospitality and Catering programme operates through an offsite café called Cornerstones which is open to the public each Friday and we also have two school based cafes each week on a Wednesday and Thursday. Our Horticulture programme operates at the school's double sized allotment, within our kitchen garden adjacent to our cooking room and within an area of the school grounds that we call Church Park. Our varied Enterprise activities are delivered within the framework of BEC (Beechcliffe Enterprise Community). BEC operates a sublimation printing facility for mugs and flatbed printing onto t-shirts and other fabric products. We also manufacture a range of craft products for sale at various school events and at the various cafes which we operate. All these activities give students opportunities to study in mixed ability groups. Additionally, all students have cooking lessons each week and all students visit the local community each week for shopping and other activities. All these activities are linked into the programmes of

study for the OCR Life & Living Skills and ASDAN Personal Development Programme which validate and accredit our vocational programme.

Students also participate in college based placements at Leeds City College, Keighley which offers a carousel of six vocational courses: Construction - Joinery, Fashion & Textiles, Construction – Brickwork, Childcare, Hair & Beauty and Motor Vehicle.

We are also involved collaboratively with another school locally running a Fuel for Schools foodbank operating from a retail unit in the town centre giving our students the opportunity to develop a range of skills face to face with the public.

Additionally, Post 16 offers a wide range of extended school opportunities with regular visits within the wider community, also many visiting speakers and events in school and we run an annual week's residential to the Yorkshire Dales.

We aim for all our students to receive a range of experiences to broaden their knowledge and to build their skills, confidence and understanding.

Additional needs - supplementary Curriculum

As appropriate we meet the diverse additional needs of our students using our specialist facilities and trained staff within hydro, rebound, sensory rooms and mobile sensory equipment. NHS nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and orthotists work in school each week and a Level 4 SNTA is designated to deliver physical therapy programmes. CAMHS and Social Care regularly provide support to students in school. Bradford Council provides a specialist SEN Careers service. Staff are extensively trained for the administration of medicines, pump feeding, moving and handling, personal care and other essential procedures.

Assessment

In Post 16 we assess students' academic progress against the assessment criteria taken from OCR Life & Living Skills and Functional Skills English, maths and ICT. Less able students are tracked using their progress upon the OCR Achievement Continuum. Additionally, in recognition of the importance of Preparation for Adulthood pathways in developing our students to live independent, healthy, safe and rewarding young adult lives both while they remain in school and after the leave us, we track the full range of personal development activities offered to ensure that each student receives a balance of opportunities that support their personal growth and future prosperity.

Transition

Throughout their final years in school we provide an extensive programme of support for student's onwards transition from school. School leaver's final EHCP Reviews are prioritised within the autumn term to allow action plans for transition to be put in place suitably early. In the autumn term each year we organise a Transitions Evening in school and we attend annually at a regional Careers Fair. Each year we arrange visits to our local colleges namely Keighley College, Craven College, Bradford College and Shipley College and to other providers to support pupil transition. We operate excellent links with to our local Council's Careers Advisor and

with Social Care's Adults' Transitions Team. We also work with local agencies such as Supported Employment, Keighley Volunteers, Keighley and Craven People First. The Deputy Headteacher is always available to support pupils and their families in preparation for transition.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Deputy Head Mr Richard Malir if you require further information.

Core Academic Learning

All pupils have programmes of study that offer appropriate learning opportunities in the areas of English, Maths and ICT. In higher ability groups discrete lessons in Literacy, Maths and ICT are provided. Less able pupils receive discrete lessons in communication as a priority, with elements of numeracy being delivered through practical life skills activities such as shopping or cooking. Communication development for some lower ability pupils is supported by the use of Touch Cues, pictorial communication, Makaton signing, Objects of Reference and talking activities as part of the provision. English, Maths and computing provision extends up to 2 hours each week in each subject for the more-able students, and all students learn with the support of ICT throughout the whole curriculum. Less able students have ICT based learning embedded within their work on Communication. We also promote the core curriculum area of English, Maths and ICT at all times on a cross-curricular basis to broaden and deepen student's understanding of these key areas. All study in Post 16 is contextualised in real life situations as we support our students on their pathway of Preparation for Adulthood.

Post 16 programmes of study for English and Maths for most students are derived from the Functional Skills curricula. We deliver programmes from Entry Level 1 to Level 2 thus making provision for all but the least able of our students. Less able students work towards units from the OCR Life & Living Skills programme with specific units targeted at their development in English, Maths and ICT.

Personal Development

Opportunities for learning and personal development are widespread and varied throughout our curriculum. Personal development linking to the Preparation for Adulthood pathways (pathways to Employment, to Housing, to Good Health and to Developing Friendships, Relationships & Community) is central within our Post 16 curriculum. Our Post 16 Centre is set up in a collegiate style with students of all abilities fully integrated for a good part of each day. All students undertake an extensive part of their studies learning off-site with community visits, college placements, work placements both in our Cornerstones community café and in visits to and placements with employers, regular shopping trips plus an extensive and varied programme of other community events. We bring opportunities for Personal Development into school by hosting weekly community Coffee Mornings catered for by our students of all abilities as part of their work in Hospitality & Catering. We host many regular events featuring visiting speakers and organisations, including enterprise days working with the Leeds Enterprise Partnership and North Yorkshire Enterprise Partnership. More-able students have weekly lessons working towards

the ASDAN Personal Development Programme with many students completing this programme with Bronze, Silver & Gold awards. Our more-able Year 14 students attend a 22-week employability programme delivered in partnership with MENCAP in which our students travel to Bradford to study on a weekly basis. Our more-able students also receive Employability/Careers Education Information & Advice (CEIA) with an annual visit to the Skills Yorkshire regional careers fair. Each week there is a 'Thought for the Week' linked to British Values. Students end each week with a personal Mentoring Session which provides a weekly review and an opportunity for goal setting, including feedback on the Thought of the Week. Our mentoring programme generates a weekly opportunity for every student to have a discussion supporting individual well-being and giving us information to allow us to develop a bespoke personalised provision for each young person. Each school day commences with a Breakfast Club that includes registration, arrangements for the day, guided reflect upon the Thought of the Week, and gives an opportunity to watch a daily news programme. For some pupils this is an opportunity to read that day's newspaper or to discuss with staff and peers around topical events providing students with a growing perspective on the wider world. Students participate in Relationships & Sex Education lessons supported by the Special Needs School Nursing Team (SNSNT) and using materials from Ur Choice Plus. As is appropriate to their age, students are given an option choice about college study programmes. Students also have an option to join mixed ability groups from across the school working on Performing Arts which culminate in bi-annual public performances. Physical Education in the form of health related exercise including opportunities for dance are included in the carousel of activities. Students join a weekly celebration assembly led by the Headteacher or a senior staff member to celebrate all our pupil's achievements and reflects on the Thought for the Week. The personal development curriculum is also supplemented by a diverse and regular calendar of whole school activities linked to charities, visits and events such as the Children in Need and Red Nose Day – a record of the diverse and vibrant range of activities is maintained in school. Post 16 students also participate in our own fund raising and charity events such as the Winter and Summer Fairs and the Super Cars and Super Heroes Day and other events. In spring 2018 we offered all our students an opportunity for a residential trip to the Yorkshire Dales and for many students this was their first time away from home and this has been booked again for Spring 2019. We also offer Independent Travel Training for many students through Bradford Council.

Accreditation

All Post 16 pupils are given opportunities to achieve external accreditation as an outcome for their academic study. The qualifications obtained are an important motivator for our students, contribute to developing their self-esteem and play an important part in each pupil's onward transition to college. For all students in Year 14 opportunities are provided to undertake accreditation and also as appropriate for many pupils in Years 12 & 13. OCR Functional Skills qualifications are available in English, Maths and ICT at Entry Level 1, 2 & 3, Level 1 & 2. These Functional Skills qualifications are undertaken in years 12, 13 & 14 in a measured way to allow pupils progression in their final years before leaving school. For lower ability pupils who are not able to be successful with Functional Skills, we also operate OCR Life and Living Skills modules. These OCR L&LS modules are more focused on specific skills areas than the more academically demanding Functional Skills qualifications. OCR L&LS modules feature a 10 stage Achievement Continuum working towards Entry 1 which

makes these qualifications accessible to our students. OCR Life & Living Skills modules are also available to provide for all our pupils accreditation in a wide range of vocational subjects featured within our Post 16 programme.