



WELBURN HALL COLLEGE UNIT COURSE 2015/16



AIMS

- Create a happy and contented atmosphere
- Provide a broad and balanced relevant curriculum for each student
- Develop each pupil's individual potential, autonomy and self-advocacy
- Develop each student's self-esteem and confidence
- Provide a stimulating, enriching, challenging and rewarding environment
- Provide opportunities for contact with the wider community

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COLLEGE UNIT COURSE

Leaving school at 16 years of age can be a traumatic experience for many young people with special educational needs. A variety of difficulties and disabilities have often prevented them from fulfilling their potential at school and they may not yet be ready for Further Education or Vocational Training. The sudden transition from school to the adult world, and the demands that society makes upon them can be overwhelming, even depressing, to such young people. They need time and help to gain confidence and the skills necessary for meaningful independence and successful integration into society.

The Course is a residential course that offers three years of continuing education, training and support to young people aged 16-19 years. It is a transitional course which gives the students a better chance of successfully negotiating their future education, training and employment options.

The Course provides an appropriate modular programme for each student with individually assessed levels of supervision, guidance and support, according to the student's personal competence, reliability, responsibility and self confidence.

The Assistant Head Teacher, as course co-ordinator, is assisted by teachers, care staff and learning support assistants, is directly responsible for the students. There are also contributions to the curriculum from other teachers/tutors and resources in the community. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy are available to help with individual needs.

All the staffs in the course are committed to:

- Being optimistic and positive, nurturing individuality and self awareness
- Encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning and decisions while, at the same time, providing a structure of support, advice and guidance
- Providing facilities that develop independence and a subsequent increase in available choice within society
- Reducing the handicapping effects of disabilities, so enjoying a fuller life and removing obstacles to learning and achievement
- Looking with the students at strengths and weaknesses and building on them in order to help manage their own lifestyles
- Giving opportunities for developing confidence and initiative
- Giving students a say in the planning of their courses and meeting their personal aims and objectives
- Giving planning, preparation and evaluation an equal status to practical tasks

ETHOS

Our ethos is concerned with the commitment to provide a relaxed, but orderly atmosphere, which seeks to foster a climate of independence, responsibility and mutual respect. We aim to achieve high standards of behaviour from students, to enable them to benefit fully from the comprehensive educational provision which is available to them in the College Unit at Welburn Hall.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum Statement

The basic intention behind curriculum development is to encourage students to reach their utmost potential during the transition to adulthood. Whilst continuing education forms part of the core curriculum, the College Unit Course includes vocational skills, social and personal development and the development of daily living competencies, leading to a maximum degree of independence for young people with a wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities.

The attitude and atmosphere of the course ensure that education is not just a series of unrelated activities but are progressive and student led. It is developmental in character, taking account of the growing maturity of young people. All elements have clear objectives and tangible outcomes, allowing students increasing awareness of themselves, of the skills they need and of the opportunities available to them.

Continuing education provides a major part of the curriculum content on offer at Welburn Hall. Our waking hour's timetable covers:

Functional Skill Learning:

AQA functional skills in:

Numeracy

Literacy

Information and communication technology

Learning for Living:

Vocational studies in horticulture, catering and animal care.

Proactive Lifestyle:

Students get to choose 2 options every half term from a wide range of sport and art activities.

Working Lifestyle:

3 year progressive work experience program based on employability skills and student interests.

Enterprise activities to raise funds.

Personal and Social Lifestyle:

Being a good citizen, risk taking behaviours and relationship education.

Social development and interaction and Independent Living:

4 nights boarding gives student real life opportunities to practice these skills in a supported environment.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

These cross curricular elements provide students with a wealth of relevant opportunities to broaden their social skills as well as enhancing and reinforcing some of the skills and themes presented in the course curriculum. There are opportunities for:-

Yearly residential trips:

- Bewerley Park Outdoor Education Centre
- Centre parks
- Inner city experience

Community based performances:

- Performing in the National Schools Shakespeare Festival
- Rock Challenge dance competition
- Community plays
- Singing at the arts centre

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

3 Year Study Programmes

Each student has his or her own study programme that is written once a year and consists of planned destinations and targeted accreditation. Students and parents/carers are actively encouraged to be involved in the process of identifying destinations. We recognise that by all parties working together we can be highly effective in the student's development.

Assessment

Assessment is at the very heart of the curriculum as it is only by clearly identifying a student's strengths and weaknesses that we can effectively maintain progress. The approaches used are formative and are gathered on an activity by activity basis. These findings are summarised on individual assessment records called Individual Achievement Records.

Shared Reviews and Annual Review

Parent/carers are formally invited into school four times during the first school year to meet the staff, discuss achievement and agree future areas for development. The first is an interim review in October. The Annual Review is held in May/June - this is a more formal meeting which may involve a range of professionals. At this meeting a student's progress and targets are discussed in relation to the Statement of Special Educational Needs and the student's future. There is also parents' evening and open classroom afternoon - these are school organised activities and allow time to talk about achievements made during the year.

Reports to Parents

Each half term a newsletter is sent out to parents to let them know what will be going on in the following half term. They will be informative and give parents a flavour of the activities the students are getting up to both in college and out.

Each year parents receive a detailed report of the events, activities and success achieved within the course in relation to their child. This also identifies targets for learning over the next year. This report is used as part of the Annual Review process. Parents also receive an additional report at the end of the year which specifically relates to achievements made.

Each student is issued with a planner at the beginning of each year. This is intended to improve the level of information passing between the school and home. It provides parents/carers with details about holiday dates, events throughout the year, contacts and other routine matters. Staff, students and parents are encouraged to both read the information in the Planner and contribute to it.

Each student will have a cash book that will come home on a weekly basis so that parents can see what the students are spending their money on and how much they are saving.

Record of Achievement

All course leavers receive a record of achievement file that gives information about a student's experiences and achievements. This document is built up over the three years with contributions from students, parents, staff and other professionals.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Involvement of Students and Parents/Carers

It is not necessary to wait for parents' evening or the Annual Review if either parents/carers or school have a particular concern about a student's education. In the first instance parents/carers should contact the Course Co-ordinator and, if necessary, an appointment can be made with another senior member of staff.

If the school has any concerns about a student, the parents/carers will be contacted and, if necessary, invited into school.

Health

Medication is administered under supervision. Parents are asked to inform the School of any infectious diseases, however minor, that occur in the family. A list of immunisations/vaccinations with dates must also be provided. Tetanus up to date cover is required for horticulture and animal care.

All parents are asked to provide school with telephone numbers where they, or a responsible adult, may be contacted in case of illness or emergency.

Money

The LA, at no cost to you, provides all meals, accommodation and curriculum content. We do ask, however, that each student brings £10 per week, preferably as a £5 note and 5 £1 coins, to enable him or her to partake in extra curricular activities as well as buy toiletries and other needs.

Students are required to budget their money and will save at least half their money every week toward residential trips and social activities. They keep a record of their spending which you will be able to view but will not bring any change home as this rolls over to the next week enabling them to save more.

Under the 1988 Education Act on charging and remissions, we are allowed to charge for certain activities which, without financial support, would severely restrict the students' opportunities.

Mobile Phones:

The college students are allowed to bring a mobile phone in to the college. These phones must not have a camera or 3/4G contracts as we discourage student use of Facebook etc. while in college.

iPod/pads, mp3 players.

Students cannot bring in any of the above items unless they are used as a communication device or do not have a camera.

Jewellery and Valuables

Students are discouraged from wearing jewellery as many practical activities make it unsafe. All valuables are the responsibility of the student and should be clearly marked as the school cannot accept responsibility for loss, damage or theft. We provide a lockable box in which to keep money and jewellery.

Essential kit list for college students.

Residential

Toiletries: Toiletry bag to include toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, hair brush or comb, electric shaver if required and girl's essentials.

MINIMUM OF 2 BATH TOWELS.

Underwear: enough pants, socks, bras etc. to last a week (minimum of 5 sets plus spare).

Pyjamas/ night dress x 2 sets minimum.

Dressing gown and slippers (essential for night time evacuations).

5 full sets of clothes see list below.

Laundry bag for dirty laundry.

Medication: enough medication to last the half term would be appreciated, medication will not be sent home at the weekend unless requested. All medication must be clearly labelled with the students name, medication details, prescription labels and signed consent forms.

Any electrical goods brought in by students must be PAT tested.

Students should be appropriately dressed for the context of the learning environment.

Appropriate dress code.

Boys.

Tops:

Coat (waterproof), Smart shirts or t-shirts.

Smart sweat shirts, jumpers or hoodies.

Trousers:

Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and knee length shorts in summer.

Shoes:

Smart Shoes - plain leather or imitation leather, smart trainers.

Girls

Tops:

Blouses, t-shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies.

Neckline must be in line with, or done up to, the top of the armpits or higher.

Sleeveless and short sleeved styles are acceptable

Skirts:

Just above the knee, or longer - skirt should touch calf at the back with leg bent at 90 degree angle.

Dresses:

Dresses are acceptable provided they comply with all the top and skirt rules.

Trousers:

Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and knee length shorts in summer, Leggings are acceptable (providing you are wearing skirt or dress as above).

Shoes:

Smart shoes, plain or imitation leather, or plain boots. Should have a heel of no more than 6cm. Smart trainers.

Students should bring appropriate equipment required for learning at each session

College:

A bag for carrying diaries, wallets, purses etc. Messenger bags are a good size.

A pencil case (pen, pencil)

Vocational and WEX:

A pair of overalls (these can be separates i.e. top and bottoms)

A pair of safety boots.

Water proof coat.

Sport and Enrichment:

Tracksuit for sports, this is separate to the tracksuit bottoms they may be wearing during a college day.

Swimsuit, towel and swim bag.

Discipline

The course does not have a set of printed rules. Courtesy, self-respect and consideration for others are the main guidelines to behaviour. Whenever a student is prohibited from doing something, it is usually for reasons of health and safety. The whole aim of the course is to treat students as adults but there are certain situations which could lead to disciplinary action. There is no smoking in any part of the campus, no alcohol on the school premises and no visiting bedrooms of the opposite sex at any time.

Complaints about the course curriculum and other related matters

It is hoped that parents would raise any concern they might have about such matters with the Headteacher in the first instance. However, if parents wish to make a formal complaint, our Complaints Procedure can be obtained from the Headteacher or from the school website.

If connexions advisers, teachers or parents are interested in the Course and would like to arrange a visit or obtain further information, please contact the Assistant Headteacher - Mrs Sarah Barker - 01751 431218.

