

Rationale

At KTS Academy we recognise that our students often have fewer options when they leave us at age 19 in comparison to their mainstream peers leaving full time education at the same age. We are aware however, that our students are able to achieve more and to take their place in society given the opportunity to acquire the skills needed.

DfE guidance for a Study Programme for 16-19 year olds - July 2012 states that 'All 16-19 –year-olds should be engaged on programmes that offer them breadth, depth and progression into higher education, further study or skilled employment...' (pg 5:7). It further states that '...From September 2013 particular attention will be paid to the quality and coherence of students' Study programmes and their appropriateness in providing a route onto further or higher education or employment.' (pg7:14)

The expectation is that the needs of all should be met 'including Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities' (pg 8:19)

We are therefore tasked with equipping our young people with the skills they need to prepare them for adulthood in a fulfilling and meaningful way. Our young people learn best from practical experiences so with this in mind we have built a hands on curriculum centred around their individual needs ensuring a bespoke and practical application to their learning. Their timetable and curriculum are directly linked and developed through the long, medium and short term goals identified within their EHC Plan and life passport.

Aims

Our aim is to maximise the potential for our students wishing to pursue relevant courses at college by helping them to fully identify their interests and support them in making realistic and aspirational choices for their future. We also provide our students with life skills and work experience so that they are as well prepared and informed about the possibilities and opportunities in the world of work as possible. We recognise the need for our students to gain accredited qualifications which are nationally recognised by colleges and employers.

Curriculum

Advice from the DfE in relation to the provision of 16-19 Study programmes requires that as part of the Study Programme KTS Academy offers, all students need to follow the key elements of functional skills, meaningful vocational qualifications, work experience and a structured careers programme. To meet these requirements we provide the following:

Functional Skills

All students are assessed on entry to KTS+ against the adult curriculum using an online assessment tool. They are then set individual goals and work towards nationally recognised qualifications in Functional Skills England and Maths. Some students who are work towards these qualifications complete work may also follow a structured phonics and numeracy programme to develop their key skills.

Independent Living

KTS+ Provision



We appreciate that for most of our young people some of the skills that their mainstream peers will learn through everyday life experience may be developed at a slower pace by our students and have to be explicitly taught. Acquiring skills for living we view as a very important part of the curriculum for students at KTS and as such a raft of independent skills training form part of our Independent living skills qualification. The units cover a variety of subjects to meet a range of needs, for example accessing the community, household skills, citizenship. We have a multi-agency approach and work with local travel trainers, social care and any other services the individuals may require.

Entry Level 1

Students will develop their underpinning and basic life skills through a multi-sensory approach.

Entry Level 2

Students will further develop their life skills and will start to complete tasks independently and will have the opportunity to apply these skills to their everyday living.

SETPD (Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development Entry Level 3)

The SETPD qualification provides students with opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of transferrable vocational skills. The units covered by each individual is designed around their personal interests and aspirational goals. Students will have employer encounters to introduce them to the different sectors of the world of work.

Careers

At KTS+ we deliver the Talentino Careers programme which has specifically designed for SEN students. The programme is designed to improve the personal, social, educational and economic outcomes for young people with learning difficulties. This means nurturing aspirations and expanding horizons of pupils, building self-esteem and skills and getting young people employment-confident and employment-ready.

Work Experience

Every student at KTS+ will take part in work experience over the course of the year. This may be student led enterprise supported by staff members from school, or at local employers such as Beyond Boundaries. We also provide more bespoke and independent experiences with providers such as James Cook University Hospital where students will work alone on the ward speaking to patients. Each placement is designed to meet the interest and be a realistic experience for the student to learn and engage with. We have many different placement providers and work closely with them to ensure all students are still working towards their qualifications and complete reflective journals about each placement day.

Vocational Subjects

We also understand that as individuals our students may have diverse aspirations, hopes and interests. To meet these we consult with the students to identify areas of interest so as to provide specific pathways for learning. These are to support our students to explore their future work options and to help them to arrive at informed decisions about work for the future. These pathways can change annually to meet the needs to the individual students within KTS+.

KTS+ Provision



Current subjects offered are:

- Media
- Art&Craft
- Animal Care
- Horticulture and Maintenance
- Catering
- Motor Vehicle

All of the vocational subjects offered are linked to either Independent Living or SETPD qualifications.