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# INTRODUCTION

This policy complies with the Independent School Standards – Part 1 – Quality of Education

Options Trent Acres School is an independent day school for pupils aged between 5 and 18. The school offers places to pupils who have complex needs including ASC related conditions as well as those who have experienced early childhood trauma. Often the pupils who arrive at Trent Acres have missed prolonged periods of schooling before joining the provision. In some cases, pupils are accessing learning much lower than age-related expectations. Some pupils may arrive at Trent Acres School late into their school years, in some cases, this may be as late as Year 11.

# POST-16 PROVISION AT OPTIONS TRENT ACRES

There are three strands within the Post-16 provision and curriculum:

• Students who have yet to achieve a level 2 or equivalent qualification in Mathematics, English and ICT. (GCSE or Functional Skills)

• Students who already have level 2 or equivalent qualifications in Mathematics, English and ICT who would like to access a broader range of GCSE options at level 2

• Students who are secure at level 2 and have appropriate qualifications in Mathematics, English and ICT and are able to access Level 3 qualifications and A-Levels.

Pupils attend Trent Acres from within a range of local authorities, it is therefore essential, that we as a school are aware of opportunities available within students’ own localities to help them to make informed choices in readiness for their next steps.

# CURRICULUM AIMS

At Options Trent Acres School all staff are aspirational and have high expectations for students’ achievement. Students who attend the sixth form provision:

* Access a rich curriculum that provides progression, stretch and challenge across a range of qualification routes
* Have opportunities to access work experience or industry placements
* Are supported by high quality, impartial careers advice and guidance provided by Staffordshire Entrust, enabling them to make informed choices in readiness for their next steps
* Are able to access supported opportunities within local colleges when they are ready to do so
* Develop personal, social and independent learning skills
* Receive specialist support and guidance as outlined by their education, health, care (EHC) plan.
* Are able to access an independent living qualification to develop fundamental skills including budgeting, household bills, washing, ironing and cookery.

# CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES

Students who access the sixth form provision have access to the full suite of qualifications on offer at KS4.

In addition, the following qualifications are available to provide breadth and higher level opportunities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Linguistic | Mathematical | Aesthetic and Creative | Human and Social | Technological | Physical | Scientific |
| English Literature GCSE  Performing Arts GCSE  GCSE Drama | A Level Mathematics  GCSE Statistics | BTEC Music  Guitar  Piano (to grade 8)  BTEC Art and Design  BTEC Graphic Design  BTEC Creative Media  BTEC Photography  BTEC Foundation Art, Design and Media  GCSE Textiles | A Level Psychology  A Level Politics and Governance  A Level History  GCSE History  GCSE Religious Studies  GCSE Geography  GCSE Citizenship  BTEC Health and Social Care | GCSE Food Technology  GCSE Computer Sciences  GCSE Engineering  BTEC Engineering | BTEC Child Development  BTEC Level 3 Animal Care  Level 3 Equine  BHS Training (Horse Riding)  Level 3 Sports Leaders | A Level Biology  A Level Psychology  A Level Chemistry  GCSE Psychology  GCSE Combined Science or Single Awards (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)  BTEC Applied Science |

In addition, students are also able to access sector specific qualifications including:

* BTEC Hospitality and Catering
* BTEC Vocational Studies
* Customer Services
* BTEC Business Studies
* Food Hygiene
* First Aid
* Enterprise

Where the school does not have the staff expertise within the immediate teaching group, provision will be made for students to attend local colleges, supported by school staff. Form Tutors will support students with college applications and visits and provide discrete or targeted college support where needed once placements have been agreed.

Students’ mental health and well-being is of paramount importance to us. The curriculum contains many opportunities for pupils to engage in relaxation activities including mindfulness and yoga.

Students who attend the Post-16 provision are also supported by the Clinical Team and the Wellbeing Hub.

# WORK EXPERIENCE

All pupils from year 10 upwards, have the opportunity to engage in work experience off site, where safe and appropriate for them to do so. This is promoted significantly for Post-16 students. We work closely with local businesses and employers to identify appropriate placement opportunities. We also provide a number of work experience opportunities on the school site including; TA experience in primary classes, animal care, catering and hospitality and administration.

Prior to any pupil accessing any external provision, a member of the SLT will visit the provision to carry out a dynamic risk assessment. Prior to any pupil attending work experience, the following documentation will be obtained from the provider:

* Safeguarding information
* Health and Safety Policy
* First Aid Policy
* Fire Risk Assessment
* Employers Insurance
* Site and safe working risk assessment
* Point of contact and emergency contact details

At Options Trent Acres School, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum of opportunity, recognising as part of this, that many rich learning experiences occur outside of the standard ‘classroom’ environment. This involves exciting and enriching off site experiences, trips and visits aimed at development of the ‘whole child’. To this end, we provide a range of enriching experiences for all of our young people to access, with the aim of developing them spiritually, socially, emotionally and culturally, as well as preparing them for their next phases and life in Modern Britain.

# COLLEGE LINKS

Options Trent Acres is situated on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border. Links have been established with a number of easily accessible local colleges including:

* Burton College
* South Staffordshire College
* Reaseheath College
* Rodbaston College

This policy is reviewed annually