

**Woolston 6th Form College**

**Work Related Learning**

We currently offer a range of accredited courses from Open Awards and OCR in functional skills, life skills and work skills.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is completed in college and all students work on Bronze and Silver Awards in their time at college which promotes social skills and basic work skills.

The curriculum provides the opportunity to build an individualised, rich and varied learning programme based around a wide range of skill areas that will suit individual student’s skills and interests.

A full work experience programme is designed around the interests of students and this links with the curriculum to help our students achieve their aims and targets with as much independence as possible.

‘Real’ work experiences are at the heart of all of the activities in college. The timetable is organised as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Morning | Afternoon |
| **Monday** | Course group | Course Group |
| **Tuesday** | Course group | Duke of Edinburgh |
| **Wednesday** | Functional Skills | Functional Skills |
| **Thursday** | Course group | PHSE |
| **Friday** | Functional Skills | Sport & Leisure / Community Access |

There are 3 learning pathways followed by students entering college:



**Pathway 3**

Functional Maths and English qualifications at Entry Level 1- 3

Vocational qualifications at Entry Level 1 – 3

**Pathway 2**

Pre-Entry activities for Maths and English

Vocational qualification at Entry 1

**Pathway 1**

Pre- formal activities for Maths and English

Vocational qualification at Entry 1

**Pathway 1**

***Independent Living Skills course – Entry Level 1 (support level detailed in unit transcripts)***

Students work on an OCR Skills for Life and Living Qualification and during their 3 years will achieve either one of the following qualifications at Entry Level 1:

* Award
* Certificate
* Extended Certificate
* Diploma

Students will also work towards developing functional mathematics and english skills.

Students in this group have the opportunity to do taster days in the higher level courses so that they get to experience and work alongside other students in real life work tasks.

**Pathway 2**

***Preparation for Independence or Preparation for Work courses – Entry Level 1 (support level detailed in unit transcripts)***

Students work on an OCR Skills for Life and Living Qualification and during their 3 years will achieve one of the following qualifications at Entry Level 1:

* Award
* Certificate
* Extended Certificate
* Diploma

Students in this group have the opportunity to do taster days in the higher level courses so that they get to experience and work alongside other students in real life work tasks.

Any students showing ability above the supported entry level courses will access courses/subjects in Pathway 3.

**Pathway 3**

Students work on an Open Awards Skills for Further Learning & Employment course and complete 3 yearlong vocational courses. They will choose from the options each year and complete year long courses:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hospitality & Catering | Students on this course work in our college kitchen– preparing, cooking and serving lunch to all the college students.  Through this, they learn a range of food preparation and hospitality skills. There is a big focus on Health & Safety within the kitchen and food safety with these skills being transferable for employment and independent living.  Students are responsible for their own uniforms and learn valuable housekeeping and catering skills. |
| Office & Admin | Students on this one year course learn office skills by working in the college office as well as other school offices.  Students learn about the real world of work, having to complete tasks set by the office  Manager and about working with other people. They learn how to use the laminator, shredder, computer, printer and photocopier.  They also handle money and learn to tell the time. |
| Retail | Students on this course learn by operating real life retail businesses.  They operate 2 successful small businesses   * our on site café—serving lunches to staff on site * a small catering business —offering catering for small parties in the Warrington area.   Students operate the college tuck shop 2 days every week serving up snacks to all the students. |
| Horticulture | Students have responsibility for the upkeep of the college grounds.  Students grow a variety of vegetables and fruit and sell them to staff, parents, and the college kitchen as well as sampling them themselves. They are developing our  enterprise projects e.g. Christmas wreaths and other plant based gifts with proceeds used to buy equipment. |

**Work experience**

All of the students, as part of their courses, participate in real life work experience. When a student is ready they can access work experience externally to college. We begin by looking at their strengths areas and have developed good links with both schools on site and some local businesses that are willing to give the students opportunities.

To begin students are fully supported by a member of staff. When they are ready to access more independently staff will step back and gradually students will begin to attend work placements independently.

Within Green Lane and Fox Wood Schools we have been able to complete supported work experience placements in the school office and caretaking roles, as well and childcare and supporting younger pupils.

As part of this we have started to look at offering independent travel training as part of our creative curriculum sessions. This is aimed at those students that are work ready or that are already accessing work placements. We want to promote the next step of students being able to access work placements completely independently. 2 students have been completing an Entry 2 level qualification in Independent Travel Training.

In the 2022/23 academic year:

* 1 student started with her weekly placement at Keates House. This started with the student needing support at the start of the year and now she attends independently.
* 2 students started their placements at The Alpaca Farm in their final year at college. Both students have now moved on to Post 19 college where they are studying Animal Care. .
* 1 student started a placement at, Premier Inn. This placement came to an end due to student wanting to explore opportunities in Health & Social Care. This student is now enrolled at Warrington Vale Royal where she is completing a Health & Social course.
* 1 student completed a weekly work placement at Foxwood School in the EYFS class. She attended with support due to medical needs and travels around to school being observed from a distance.
* A group of horticulture students complete weekly work experience with the Volunteer group, Friends of Woolston Park.

We are constantly looking for other work placements with local providers.

* Keates House have expressed a wish for our horticulture students to do a work placement there.
* St. Roccos have been keen to get us involved with working in their shops

We would welcome providers and employers from the administration/digital skills/retail sectors to provide opportunities for our students to complete placements with. Please contact Dale Holden or Vickie Whitehead on 01925 811447 for more information.