



Social and Vocational Education

Overview of the Curriculum
Area:
Social and Vocational Education

Accommodation

The Social and Vocational Education department is located in the main block of the college and is comprised of 6 classrooms over 2 floors. Each classroom is equipped with interactive whiteboards that are operated from staff laptops. The Social and Vocational Education teaching block has recently gone through a renovation which has seen the addition of kitchen facilities within the curriculum base for staff use.

Staffing

The Social and Vocational Education department consists of 5 full time members of staff. Staff have experience of teaching a wide range of specialisms including Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care, Business Studies, CPLD and Work Skills. Leading the department is the Curriculum Team Leader who works closely with her TLR team that comprises of an Assistant Curriculum Team Leader and a Learning and Teaching lead.

All of the members of the team (including the Curriculum Team Leader) work closely with exam boards and awarding bodies in roles such as chief exam markers, exam marker and standards verifiers. These additional roles enable the department to be at the forefront of assessment knowledge, pedagogical developments and teaching ideas that are then shared and used to strengthen practice within the department.

Curriculum

The College operates a two-week timetable with three 100 minute lessons each day.

At KS4 Health and Social Care (BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award) is offered as an option and has become a well-established and popular course with 3 classes per year group. Students have 3 lessons of this mainstream and 6 as part of a targeted pathway provision for selected students.

The Social and Vocational Education department enjoys strong recruitment at post 16 with 4/5 of sixth form students studying at least one subject within the department. Provision is offered across a wide variety of subjects at different levels from 1 – 3.

KS5 - Level 1 and 2 students can choose to study subjects such as Preparation for Apprenticeships, Health and Social Care and Business Studies. Students have subject specialist periods each periods a week alongside lessons to allow them to resit Maths and/or English GCSE's or Functional Skills.

KS5 - Level 3 students have 5 periods over two weeks consisting of two double periods (100 minutes) with a full day of study time each week.

They can choose to study a combination of subjects including BTEC Applied Psychology, A Level Sociology, BTEC National Diploma/BTEC Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care and BTEC Extended Certificate in Business Studies. These can be combined with a wide range of other A Levels and BTEC Level 3 qualifications taught to Post 16 students.

Enrichment

As a department we pride ourselves on offering a supportive and inclusive learning experience for students. For example on two afternoons a week students are able to attend "Soc Voc catch up" sessions (Staffed by the CLT and ACTL). During these students have access to personalised support with issues such as coursework, revision and exam preparation.

The department are keen to celebrate their subjects and take every opportunity to raise the profile of these by organising visits and for a range of professionals to come in and discuss careers within a range of professions.

Culture and Ethos

At the heart of everything the Social Vocational department do are the students, we truly strive to ensure that 'No child is left behind' academically or otherwise. The main priority of the department is the continuing improvement of learning and teaching within the department so every student is placed on the right course for them and supported to achieve to the best of their ability. We are committed to providing a challenging and high quality programme of study for all students. As such our delivery and Schemes of Work are constantly under review and have been significantly developed over the past two years including the addition of a new layer of level 1 and 2 post 16 qualifications to suit student's needs.

The Social and Vocational team are extremely supportive of each other and have a passion for collaborative working. The department offers a wide breadth of knowledge and experience that is used to support each other and ensure that students have a quality learning experience that prepares them for the next stage in their lives.

Donella Cook

Curriculum Team Leader – Social and Vocational Education

June 2021