

Careers Support and Guidance at Saxon Hill Academy

Our 'Leaders' Curriculum

At Saxon Hill Academy we have created our own curriculum with the children and young peoples' long term goals and aspirations as the 'North Star' focal point and the development of their independence and skills as the journey toward that North Star.

LEADERS - A curriculum designed to inspire young people to take the lead in their own lives



Our Vision is that with the Leaders curriculum children and young people will develop the skills, attitude and capability to lead the way; creating and enjoying every opportunity and confidently rising to each challenge life offers.



It is part of our Mission to teach children and young people to:

- Understand, engage and shape their world
- Communicate effectively
- Be independent, interdependent and resilient
- Maximise their physical and sensory abilities

The Tailored Offer to 14-19s Supporting Careers

In our 14-19 Towards Independence department the emphasis is developing and applying young peoples' skills for independent living and employability. All young people in this age phase work on personalised, accredited Diploma courses from Entry level 1 to Level 2 qualifications in Personal Progress, Living Independently, Employability and Development Skills and Skills for Life and Work.

Teachers make local links and innovate to provide exciting learning opportunities for all students.

Senior Leaders and Governors support the provision of our community based work experience placements. These have been established with the twin principles of student outcomes and economic self-sustainability. This has enabled us to offer an exceptional range of sustained and accredited work based learning.

Links made with post 19 providers supports student transition by introducing our current students to possible future placements. This demystifies these services for the young people and smooths the ramp from school to adult opportunity providers.

Towards Independence students spend much of their time learning valuable work skills at each of our community work experience venues: Wyevale Garden Centre, Chasewater Craft Barn, Community Connect Café and the Lichfield Foodbank.

Post 16 - The focus is applying these skills to develop independent living and employability skills. These students' timetable typically includes 3 days per week ,work based programme within the community and our work experience venues:

- At Wyevale Garden Centre Shenstone, we have a unique outdoor classroom base around which we support learners as they take part in Wyevale work based learning supported by both Saxon Hill and Wyevale staff. Students work on the tills, erect display, front-face stock and customer service.
- The Lichfield Craft Barn where we hold two units at Chasewater Leisure Park, a unique setting. Students work in both the retail shop and the warehouse. The Craft Barn relies on donations of clean business surplus from local businesses. Learners sort and pack materials ready for sale in the workshop, then transfer them through to sell them in the shop.
- We also have a Community Café where learners are supported to take part in a variety of work including preparing ingredients, food and drink, cooking, serving, hosting and entertaining.
- The Lichfield Foodbank collection centre is based in the grounds of the Academy; this enables learners to identify and sort foods in the classroom, deliver dated foods to the Foodbank, to record sell-by dates and weights within the collection centre itself and to

package collections of food packs ready for families. In addition, learners support the Foodbank by taking part in the collection of foods and donations in local supermarkets.

- Towards Independence learners have recently become an Interact group, supported by Tamworth Rotary. The Interactees - Saxfieldians have an elected President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- The Saxfieldians have established their community based projects as part of the Interact criteria and these are; The Lichfield Foodbank, St John's Hospital, Sands and their overseas project Aqua Box.
- 16-19 learners also have ownership of an enterprise Tuck-shop. Learners plan, order and sell from the Tuck-Shop throughout the academy with a focused target of raising money for their school Prom at the end of the year.

Careers Guidance for beyond Saxon Hill

We ensure that all Saxon Hill Y14 leavers and their families have explored a range of options with education providers, social care providers and day opportunities before pursuing their final choices post-19. Transition opportunities, open days, funding streams and application processes for post-19 provision are discussed at every Annual Review from Y9 onwards.

A Transition Evening 'What Next after Saxon Hill?' is arranged annually during the autumn term. All families of Y9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 young people are invited. There are presentations from a range of local (and some further afield) providers from social care, health, colleges and private organisations able to discuss their offer with families. They provide families with a contact 'face' from the organisation and information about any entry requirements, potential funding sources and discuss their general suitability and likely outcomes beyond their service for the young person.

Recent Outcomes for Students

- For the last 6 years all Y14 students have left SHA to go on to alternative placements. They may study courses at Futures Specialist College; Lichfield College; Portland Residential Specialist College or have received a package of Health and Social Care which includes attendance at CJB Care Burton or Catherine Care Norton Canes or Great Wyrley specialist provision for young people with sensory needs. In addition this year, one of our Y14 leavers has opted to provide voluntary work at her local library for 6 days per week.
- One ex-student had left college and was subsequently employed by us for several years as a Marketing Assistant for our Community Interest Company.
- Other ex-students have occasionally returned to work voluntarily in our community opportunities venues e.g. Craft Barn or Café, where they are supported to study for relevant, useful qualifications e.g. the Level 1 Health and Hygiene certificate before moving on to their next phase of training or role.

We continue to offer some employment opportunities, supported internships, volunteering opportunities and further training to a small number of ex-students.

A sum is set aside per year to select and employ on a part time, fixed term basis, a worthy ex-student in need of a stepping stone towards a planned career. We can provide valuable work experience, training and hopefully a good reference and CV to help them on their way to their next venture.