
Introduction to the pathway

Pupils who join the Orchard Pathway are those who have been identified as having a high level of academic ability within a Complex Needs school. These pupils will also have a range of needs as well as academic strength in a diverse variety of areas. However what links them is their ability to pursue formal accreditations which will allow them to move on to further study at college.

Nurture

A fundamental commitment to Nurture is crucial to the Orchard Pathway as all students need to feel safe and valued in order to be fully ready to learn. The staff team who work within this pathway utilise a range of strategies as appropriate (visuals, personalised timetables, explicit teaching of social and emotional skills) in order to reduce anxiety as much as possible before challenging the pupils to achieve their full potential.

Pupils within this pathway often experience very strong feelings of low self-esteem and lack confidence academically. They may be acutely aware of their own needs which can make them feel reluctant to even attempt tasks for fear of failure. Staff within this pathway will ensure that confidence is built through incremental learning steps, a safe and supportive environment where “failure” is celebrated as a key part of the learning process and that every single achievement – no matter how small – is valued by all. Where appropriate, pupils will have access to our dedicated Nurture provision (Rainbow Room), one to one time with our Behaviour Intervention Officer and personalised reward systems.

Use of ICT

ICT is a crucial learning tool and confidence with new technologies is vital for our pupils as they leave school and enter young adulthood. It can also be a highly effective communication tool where our pupils feel able to express themselves much more coherently. ICT is an integral part of our curriculum and is used wherever possible to enhance learning of all subject areas.

Accreditations

As they move into Upper School pupils will be given the opportunity to complete a range of accreditations which are suitable for them their needs and their aspirations. This will be individual to each pupil so that they are pursuing the right path for them. Staff will ensure that they keep abreast of new accreditation opportunities and liaise with post 16 providers so that each pupil has the right qualifications to pursue their desired path.