

Employability Skills are embedded in all sessions

Teamwork-Effective Communication-Time Management-Perseverance-Resilience-Polite & Friendly- Listening Skills-Organisational Skills-Ability to Learn - Adapt-Solve Problems-Negotiate-Use Initiative- Self Motivate -Make Decisions-Leadership-Flexibility-Value diversity and difference.

The intent and ethos of our curriculum is to enable young people to secure a wide range of skills and knowledge that will enable them to gain employment, contribute to society and lead fulfilling and productive lives.

We provide a safe, caring and motivating learning environment where we embed a culture of success and achievement.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of all learners; this includes academic qualifications, digital literacy, careers education, information advice and guidance, life skills training and social and cultural experiences.

Our learners are at the heart of what we do, and their futures and aspirations drive our curriculum.

Tutorials:

Tutorials give the learners the opportunity to engage with their tutor and connect with peers. They provide the opportunity for one-to-one support and to identify personal targets, discuss what is going well, discuss any concerns, check overall progress, and for the learners to receive feedback from their tutors. All learners belong to a tutor group and have an assigned individual class tutor. Tutorials take place at the start of each day and learners usually find them an enjoyable experience.

Functional Skills- Maths:

Learners will practise, improve, and demonstrate the basics of mathematics, including representing, analysing, and interpreting information and data to enable them to solve every day mathematical problems. With support, learners will become confident in and will be able to demonstrate their ability to use mathematical thinking effectively to solve problems in a range of situations, providing them with the skills they need to take an active and responsible role in their communities, workplace, and in their everyday life.

Functional Skills- English:

Functional Skills English enables learners to gain the skills and knowledge needed to live their lives effectively. Functional Skills English enhances learners' ability to read, comprehend and write text, and as a result, promotes independence to apply this to everyday life. Working towards a qualification allows the learner to not only personally progress but also provides a sense of achievement and gives them the chance for future success in education, work, and life.

NCFE English:

As well as meeting the NCFE criteria for E1, the course aims to stimulate curiosity in the learners and challenge them to look at their lives in relation to the world they live.

Learners encounter new ways of experiencing the world through topics such as diversity. They experience new things including traditions in different cultures and they start to gain confidence in their own opinions. This course is personal to enable learners to find their own voice.

On an employability level, learners gain valuable presentation skills, learn to follow instructions and respond to questions. Another element of English is to develop the ability to think creatively by setting the learners challenges. They improve their vocabulary and feel confident about how to find definitions of unfamiliar words and phrases.

NCFE Maths- Food Life Skills- UCF:

NCFE Certificate in Maths is taught in a practical setting through Food Life Skills; combining a practical development of independent living skills alongside the ability to gain a qualification.

Through teamwork and individual challenges learners develop meaningful skills which enable them to use Mathematical knowledge in a functional context whilst simultaneously developing competencies in food preparation. Preparing young people for a life outside of education by bridging the transference of these skills within differing contexts enables our learners to develop confidence in their own independence.

Learners study food hygiene practises, kitchen safety and food preparation concurrently with the NCFE Certificate specification.

PSHE:

This course is designed for learners to develop their understanding of themselves, within the context of the wider communities that they live within, in order to safely engage as active citizens.

Learners will develop their understanding of British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, and mutual respect and tolerance to promote an inclusive environment within college and in their everyday lives.

Through a range of core PSHE topics and wider discussions about current affairs, learners develop their ability to make relevant personal choices and decisions in order to prepare them for adult life.

Core curriculum topics include:

- Emotional Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Sex & Relationships
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Community
- Transition (Diversity, rights & responsibilities)

Employability:

Employability Skills involves teaching the learners various skills to help them transition and progress into paid employment. We teach our learners however, that employability is not just about getting a job, but about a broader set of skills and attributes that will enable a learner to be successful in life and at work. Developing many skills this involves learning how to create a CV, developing their interview and problem-solving skills, building confidence and teamwork. Overall, employability provides the learners with transferable core skills for career success at all levels of employment as well as increasing learner awareness and self-confidence in their skills and abilities.

NCFE Digital Skills:

The aim of this module is to support learners and improve their confidence in using digital skills to enable them to be able to find, present, and share information using a range of applications. The course enables learners to apply digital skills in personal and business situations, to understand how to

maintain safety and security when using data and devices and to find and use information using digital resources to facilitate communication, own learning, and career progression.

NCFE Performance Skills:

This course is designed for those learners who either aspire to work in performing arts, wish to continue to study, or to develop an interest in the performing arts.

Learners are introduced to the skills, knowledge and qualities needed in the performing arts sector.

The learners develop their skills in a wide variety of performance types, fundamental practical skills, performance ability, self-confidence, public-speaking and critical awareness.

Learners develop the knowledge, understanding and essential skills employers look for in employees; key skills such as:

- Team working
- Independent learning
- Problem solving
- Appropriate behaviour and dress
- Appropriate interpersonal skills
- Communicating with professional colleagues/peers/hierarchical seniors
- Supporting other aspiring employees
- Professional attitudes and conduct

Understanding of work practices and how different roles and departments function within an organisation

Film Making:

Film making encourages group work and teaches learners film making skills that they can transfer to their everyday lives. On a basic level they can use their mobile devices to capture their world. Should they wish they can explore the opportunity to make films about their lives and the world they live in. The opportunities for self-advocacy are enormous. Although there are film making qualifications available, those who aspire to take their learning further need to produce showreels to show to prospective employees. The film making course at The Oaks will give them the skills they need to make their own films. Learners may like to submit films into Film Festivals.

The course teaches learners presentation skills, how to take questions from an audience and how to promote their work. Learners build confidence and self-esteem, participate in a range of assessment methods, including individual, pair and group work, and accept challenges and targets. They experience the importance of listening to instructions, following a brief and working to a deadline. Learners encounter problem solving and personal reflection. Learners learn how to critique work. They also have opportunities to show their leadership skills when producing their own films.

Drama:

PfA1- this class is about engagement and communication through the arts. The session consists of a warm-up to energise and focus learners, as well as embed turn taking and listening skills. This is followed by vocal exercises to encourage participants to use their voices to express themselves and recognise emotions in others through changes to voice and facial expressions. The final section of the class is to learn either a dance routine or scene as a group; this further embeds team working, as well as following direction and responding to prompts. There are also opportunities for stretch and challenge with learners being asked to contribute their ideas to the making of the piece.

PfA2- this course follows the NCFE Level 1 Performance Skills programme, with a focus on employment skills embedded through arts work. Learners explore the performing arts as an industry and are required to identify the skills and responsibilities needed in various arts roles, both on and off stage. As well as this, they have the opportunity to research, devise and perform their own work, furthering their skills in professionalism, working to deadlines, teamwork and communication. Through this work, they also gain a technical understanding of performing arts vocabulary (stage directions, improvise, exaggerate.)

Art:

Art at The Oaks promotes verbal and visual communication, practical skills, problem solving, working with others and promotes confidence and self-esteem through student led work.

Food & Nutrition - Community Sport:

Learners are able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge of nutrition and healthy eating. They work towards being able to plan and prepare a variety of meals and snacks, and will be encouraged to broaden their food experiences, such as trying new ingredients and dishes. Learners will be able to discuss and understand the benefits of a healthy diet and maintaining an active lifestyle and will be encouraged to make informed choices, enabling them to sustain a healthy lifestyle. This is achieved by reading and using food labels and ingredients lists, using community facilities and taking part in sport sessions.

Preparation for Adulthood:

The PfA curriculum is based on the four elements of the PFA framework: Employability, Independent Living Skills, Community Inclusion and Health. Maths and English play an important part in our learners' continuing education, but rather than being taught in a traditional classroom setting, they are taught in real-life situations such as cooking and shopping. We have a college café and supermarket and Horticulture and Animal Care programmes where learners can undertake, valuable, meaningful, and appropriate work experience. As well as gaining work experience learners develop teamwork, communication, and employability skills.

Independent Living Skills are taught based on the individual learners needs, aspirations and planned future destinations.

Learners are encouraged to access the local community as much as possible. We venture out into the community for leisure activities, shopping, and travel training. Non-curriculum-based activities on a Thursday afternoon allow learners to socialise with their peers and develop invaluable communication skills for life.

The promotion of good health, including mental Health and wellbeing, form an integral part of our curriculum. We have 2 planned sessions each week for health and leisure activities such as horse riding, bowling, golf etc as well as 30 minutes each day for local walks, Dance and Sign or relaxation.