

FE Department Curriculum Summary and Department Overview (2022/23)

The FE Department at Sir Tom Finney Community High School offers students a structured and challenging learning programme that supports their development and progression in line with their aspirations.

'Preparation for Adulthood' is at the heart of the FE Programme of Study which focuses on progression to the appropriate next stage of education, employment or care for each of our learners. The core offer Literacy, Numeracy, PSHE and Computing are all delivered discretely to our teaching and learning groups that have been set according to ability. Each of these groups also experience embedded vocational Life Skills, Careers and Enterprise components, all of which account for approximately 60% of each student's timetable.

The other 40% of the week is composed of student enrichment activities (or 'Options') which currently include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Food Technology, Art & Design, Community Sports, Hairdressing & Salon Skills, Construction, Design Technology and Horticulture, amongst many others. This robust combination of mandatory core skills and individually selected options means that each student enjoys a highly personalised, individually tailored and bespoke learning experience in the FE Department.

Accreditation and certification is offered to each of our learners ranging from Entry Level 1 to Level 2 comfortably accommodating all abilities and most importantly preparing them for their 'next step' as they leave STFCH. Other non-qualification activities also exist to develop students' character, broaden skills, attitudes, build confidence, and to support progression.

We offer work experience to give students the opportunity to develop their career choices and to apply their skills within real working conditions. Preston College & Royal Preston Hospital currently offer groups of students termly work experiences in ancillary, catering and clerical areas. Engagement with employers (both 'real life' & 'virtual') combined with work-related activity in our non-core offer, introduce students to the opportunities available and the behaviours that employers expect. A structured work placement may be right for some, but others benefit more from experiencing a variety of different employment related activities, and we are mindful in planning for this.

Planning for the 'next-steps' is central to all we do, therefore 'transition' is obviously a major focus. As part of the FE Offer, students will partake in numerous taster visits to local colleges over their time with us to ensure they make informed choices about future provision. Once a 'next-steps' placement has been agreed, we support the transition process with bespoke visits to the new providers on either an individual or group basis, as appropriate. All the while we work closely in partnership with parents/carers in offering pastoral and specialist support to help students to remain engaged and progress, whilst preparing and empowering them to go on and live their very best lives.

Lee Toulson

Head of Department (FE)