

Transition to college, employment and adulthood - Learner Journeys

Cedars Academy Cluster



Cedars academy: June 2013

Sam: Learner Profile & Journey

Background

Sam has a Statement of Special Educational Needs as he experiences significantly greater difficulty with learning than most young people his age as a result of his emotional, learning and social difficulties. His literacy and numeracy skills are delayed. He has expressive and receptive language difficulties; he can become angry and frustrated when he has difficulty understanding what is expected of him.

Cedars Academy has developed an Enterprise Programme targeted at a number of young people currently experiencing difficulty fully accessing the curriculum. The purpose of the programme is to stimulate interest and relevant experience in an enterprise project. Built into the programme is the raised awareness of the business sector and ways in which the young people can contribute to the organisation and running of a small enterprise.

Cedars Academy has developed an Employability and Enterprise Programme targeted at a number of young people currently experiencing difficulty accessing the curriculum fully. The purpose of the programme is to stimulate interest and relevant experience in an enterprise project. A central aim of the programme is to develop raised awareness of the business sector by working with young people to explore the ways in which they can contribute to the organisation and running of a small enterprise.

The programme provides Sam with an appropriate curriculum and environment that would support his continued development both educationally and also in independence and self-care skills. The programme is designed to ease transition to further education and training and provide a good bridge between school and education/training based in a larger college setting, for which Sam is now prepared, and due to commence a course at a local college of FE in September 2013.

Aspirations, life/key/basic skills, achievements, participation, attitude and motivation

In July 2011 Sam transferred to Joseph Swan Technology College as a Year 12 student in 6th Form. The delivery of the curriculum is shared between Joseph Swan and Cedars and also involves vocational learning provided by partners from the Collective, based at the Skills Academy. The Foundation Learning curriculum is delivered in personalised programmes, which combine subject or vocational learning with functional skills and personal and social development, and include citizenship, enterprise and wider employability skills.

Curriculum Development/Collaborate Working/ Learner and Parent Voice

Sam is a cooperative student; he respects the rights of others to take turns during classroom activities and at break times when coming into contact with the lower school. Sam has made a very positive start to 6th Form.

Sam can clearly express his opinions during group discussions. He has shown that he can give and follow clear instructions in his role as a leader during PE, sporting and Duke of Edinburgh activities.

Sam has undertaken the following accreditation this academic year: NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Literacy at Level 1, NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Numeracy at Level 1, NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1 and NOCN Level 1 Introduction to Enterprise.

Sam has carried out work experience in a hospital laboratory. He assisted in cover-slipping and aided medical professional in their daily duties; he has found this work very interesting. It is hoped that this experience will further improve his interpersonal skills and assist in his decision regarding future training and employment routes. Sam also completed a successful work experience placement at Bill Quay Farm, helping to care for the animals and support the farm workers in their duties.

This year Sam has worked a day a week as Teaching Assistant to staff in school, working with students in Key Stage 3 in a range of subjects, including English and PE. Sam has demonstrated care, patience and understanding in his approach to this experience and his confidence has been raised as a result of his success.

Sam was delighted to achieve Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award last year and hopes to achieve Gold Award this year. Sam took part in the ski residential and has organised a sponsored triathlon to help raise money to pay for his trip. Sam has taken part in many leadership activities through PE and sport and this has helped to increase his confidence and self-belief.

Sam has enjoyed working with some of the younger children in school as part of his Work Experience and Young Leader Programme and this may be an area that, in the future, he may like to train in.

Sam's Plans for next year

Sam plans to enrol on the Stepping Stones Programme at Gateshead College; he hopes that this will enable him to progress into a mainstream course in Health & Social Skills. In the long term Sam plans to pursue a career as a teaching Assistant.

Signed:..... (student) Date: