

Transition to college, employment and adulthood - Learner Journeys

Cedars Academy Cluster



Cedars Academy: June 2013

Callum: Learner Profile & Journey

Background

Callum 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 communication, emotional, motor and social difficulties. Callum has a diagnosis of Di George Syndrome and has impaired hearing. He experiences high levels of anxiety which affect his learning and ability to progress. Callum requires a safe and secure environment with specialist and experienced staff support to enable him to continue to fully access the curriculum and to address his key skills and independence difficulties in particular.

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 curriculum provides learners with the opportunity to learn within a vocational environment and puts them in a position to benefit from post 16 learning opportunities and ultimately employment. Key to the programme is providing learners with the opportunity to experience learning in a different setting/environment which includes a diverse range of other learners and young people.

It is intended that the programme would also 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 Callum is not yet fully prepared.

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

In July 2012 Callum transferred to Joseph Swan Technology College as a Year 12 student in the Joseph Swan/Cedars partnership 6th Form. Callum felt he was not ready to go to college and wanted time to develop his key skills to prepare for the transition into college.

Callum is undertaking the following accreditation this academic year: NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Literacy at Entry Level 3, NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Numeracy at Entry Level 2, NOCN Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Entry Level 2, NOCN Entry Level 3 Certificate in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-Up), NOCN Entry Level 3 Introduction to Enterprise and C&G Employability and Personal Development Award Level 1.

Curriculum Development/Collaborate Working/ Learner and Parent Voice

Callum has carried out work experience in the school garden. He assisted in developing the garden into a teaching and enterprise environment; he has found this to be hard work but very interesting. Callum has been involved in making group decisions regarding the development of the garden and the introduction of teaching and learning areas within the grounds. It is hoped that this experience will further improve his interpersonal skills and assist in his decisions regarding future training and employment routes.

In developing his employability skills Callum has worked well in team activities. Callum participated with interest in the tasks, he used the computer to design a poster and record what he enjoyed best about the enterprise. Callum weighed the ingredients, mixed the solution and used a microwave to melt the candle wax. Callum used computer skills and reading skills throughout the project. Callum worked well with his team to make their soaps. He helped his team make and package their soaps and bath bombs. Callum is a passive participant; he can rely on others to think for him, unless it is computer orientated; these skills were well demonstrated by his ability to design a poster to advertise his product. Callum is very quiet and his mind is not always focused on the task. Callum is a very polite student and when pushed and given lots of encouragement he can complete the tasks.

Callum has enjoyed working with the others in the Supporting Opportunities for All (SOFA) group to decide on social activities. He has enjoyed the visit to the cinema and the meal that the group had together. Callum would like to continue attending the SOFA Social Network Group next year.

Callum's Plans for next year

Callum has enrolled on his second year at Cedars/Joseph Swan 6th Form. He would like to continue to develop his confidence in key skills and also develop his ability around communication and life skills. In the longer term Callum plans to go to college to possibly pursue an interest in office management.

Signed:..... (student)

Date: