

Transition to college, employment and adulthood - Learner Journeys

Cedars Academy Cluster



Cedars Academy: June 2013

Liam: Learner Profile & Journey

Background

Liam 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 physical difficulties. Liam has Spinal Muscular Atrophy and Scoliosis with associated respiratory problems.

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.

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

In July 2012 Liam transferred to Joseph Swan Technology College as a Year 12 student in the Joseph Swan/Cedars partnership 6th Form. Liam felt he was not ready to go to college and wanted time to develop his understanding of specific courses, to improve on his GCSE accreditation and to improve key skills to prepare for the next challenge in his life. Liam is very keen to pursue his interest in the study of Physics and Maths.

The delivery of the 6th Form curriculum is shared between Joseph Swan and Cedars and also involves vocational learning provided by partners from the Collective, based at the Skills Academy, and work experience placements, provided by Supporting Opportunities for All (SOFA). 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

Liam is undertaking the following accreditation this academic year: OCR GCSE Physics (Higher), OCR GCSE Maths (Higher), AQA GCSE English (Foundation), 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, NOCN Entry Level 3 Certificate in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-Up), NOCN Level 1 Introduction to Enterprise and G&G Employability and Personal Development Award Level 2.

In developing his employability skills Liam has worked well in team activities. Liam developed a good business and marketing plan with his team. He was able to make an excellent product to retail. Liam used ICT skills to record his team's business plan. He used excellent persuasive writing to secure a loan from the Dragons. Liam expressed his thoughts and ideas clearly; he was fully engaged in the team's discussions. He co-operates well with others in order to get the job done. Liam examines different areas to look for the best results; he knows what he wants to achieve and can express his ideas to get the results. Liam behaves well when he is enjoying the activity and it challenges him.

Liam has carried out work experience at the Dryden Centre where he carries out ICT administration 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. Liam has demonstrated care, patience and skill in his approach to this experience and his confidence has been raised as a result of his success.

Liam's Plans for next year

Liam has enrolled on his second year at Cedars/Joseph Swan 6th Form. He would like to continue to develop his grades in Physics, Maths and English in particular and also develop his key skills around communication and life skills. In the longer term Liam plans to go to the Discovery School to continue studies at A Level in Physics, Maths and Science.

Signed:..... (student)

Date: