



The
Westminster
School

Safe, Happy and Learning Together

Post 16 Parents Handbook



7to97 Social Enterprise—Seeds of Hope

“My child enjoys School and attending ...all activities in and out of school. The School has done a great job!”

“My child has done really well at The Westminster School!”



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Curriculum

Everyone working with children and young people who have SEN or disabilities should support them to prepare for adult life and help them go on to achieve the best outcomes in employment, independent living, health and community participation. (SEND Code of Practice)

The sole aim of the Post 16 curriculum is to ensure that all students are as prepared as possible for the next phase in their education, training or life. The curriculum is enriched with a range of work-related learning and all students have the opportunity to support their local community. There are a variety of pathways available for the students and this will depend on the curriculum they embark on. This is outlined below:

- Skills for Life, DofE (Bronze), core subjects delivered functionally and are not seen as discrete subjects and attending Dudley College to further complete social enterprise.
- Bredon Group - 50% Employment skills with 50% Skills for Life. Core subjects delivered through the Open College qualification, 1 day work experience and attend Dudley College
- Snowdon Group - Attending College, one day per week work experience, supporting and leading on community projects, DofE(Silver and Bronze), Foundation Learning – BTEC Level One Qualifications such as Sport and Leisure, Art and Design, Performing Arts, Business Administration including English and Maths.



Work Experience

Students who are ready also undertake regular work experience in the local community. Due to the needs of the students, this is carried out for one day each week rather than in a two week block placement. Current work placements include:

- Tick Tocks Nursery
- **Barnardo's**
- The Albion Foundation
- The Salvation Army
- The Westminster School Primary Dept
- Portway Lifestyle Centre
- Sandwell Valley Riding Stables





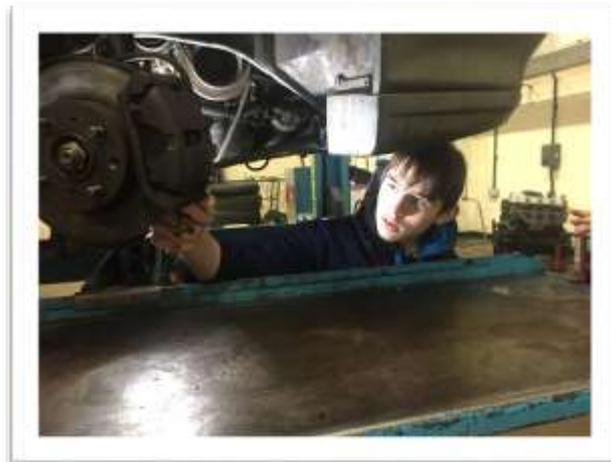
Dudley College

Our students also get a taste of Further Education. The School has very strong links with Dudley College and as a result all students in Post 16 attend College every Tuesday to complete their vocational courses.

Our Clee group complete enterprise activities in the recently opened Dudley College Aspire Works Facility.

Subjects currently available are:

- Retail
- Mechanics
- Catering



Independent Travel Training

In order to support students transition to the next phase of their education, training or employment, the School works hard to promote personal independence. Our experienced travel trainers work with students and their parents to devise a travel training plan. Journeys are carefully planned in line with outcomes from EHCPs and meetings with Connexions. For example, students are trained to travel independently to their future college placements (i.e. Sandwell College) or their current work experience placement.



Community Projects

We believe that all of our students can make a positive contribution to their local community.

Project Esme is where our Post 16 students fundraise to provide food and drink for the **Parents Kitchen on Sandwell Hospital's Children Ward.**

Students also work on a Coffee Cart at a local library in partnership with Action for Children, serving drinks to customers

Students also support the local church as part of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) course.



Subjects and Accreditation

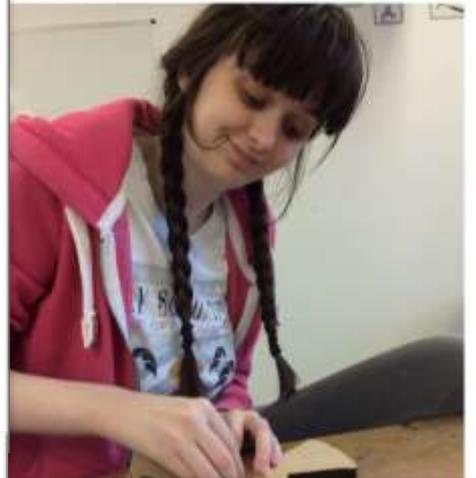
English and Maths are taught across all subjects and enrichment activities in Post 16. We recognise that skills must be taught as functionally as possible. We talk to our students about how they want to use their numeracy and literacy skills in the future and plan appropriately. As a result the following activities have been organised:



- A “planning your bedroom” activity followed by visit to IKEA, Wednesbury to look at bedroom furnishings
- Applying for a library card and using a library
- Planning a holiday
- Personal budgeting and finance
- Skills for shopping and independent shopping for household items

<p><u>Clee</u> ASDAN Personal Progress and Open College units (English and Maths)</p>	<p>Open College Living Independently (Entry 1 and 2)</p>	<p>Open College Enterprise units completed at Dudley College</p>	<p>Specialist colleges (through support from connexions)</p>
<p><u>Bredon</u> English Functional Skills (Entry Level) Maths units - Open College Employment and Personal Development Skills (Entry 3)</p>	<p>Open College Diploma in Employment and Development Skills (Entry 3)* In-School Jobs (welfare officers, sports coaches, librarians, administration officers, environment wardens, science and food technicians) 1-day work experience (minimum) *some students identified to progress onto a Level One Certificate in Employment and Personal Development Skills Travel training programmes for identified students</p>	<p>Choice of... City and Guild Retail (Entry 3) City and Guild Catering (Entry 3) ABC Mechanics (Entry 3)</p>	<p>Mainstream Colleges on supported learning courses (Dudley College, Sandwell College, Halesowen College)</p>
<p><u>Snowdon</u> English Functional Skills (Entry Level/Level One) Maths units in Employment and Development Skills (Entry 3/Level One)</p>	<p>BTEC Sport and Active Leisure (Entry 3/Level 1) BTEC Art and Design (Entry 3/Level 1) BTEC Performing Arts (Entry 3/Level 1) BTEC Business Administration (Entry 3/Level 1) Diploma in Employment and Development Skills (Entry 3/Level One) 1 day work experience (onsite/offsite) In school Jobs (welfare officer, sports coaches, librarians, administration officers, environment wardens, science and food technicians) 1 day work experience Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze/Silver) Independent TITAN Travel Training Programme for identified students</p>	<p>City and Guild Retail (Entry 3) City and Guild Catering (Entry 3) ABC Mechanics (Entry 3)</p>	<p>Mainstream Colleges (Dudley College, Sandwell College, Halesowen College) Supported Internships Paid Employment</p>
<p><u>Nevis</u> Maths units in Employment and Development Skills (Entry 3/Level One) English Functional Skills (Entry Level/Level One)</p>	<p>BTEC Vocational Studies Level One Introductory Suite Appropriate vocational qualifications identified throughout internship programme (i.e. Health and Safety, Manual Handling) Independent TITAN Travel Training</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Paid Employment Supported Apprenticeships</p>

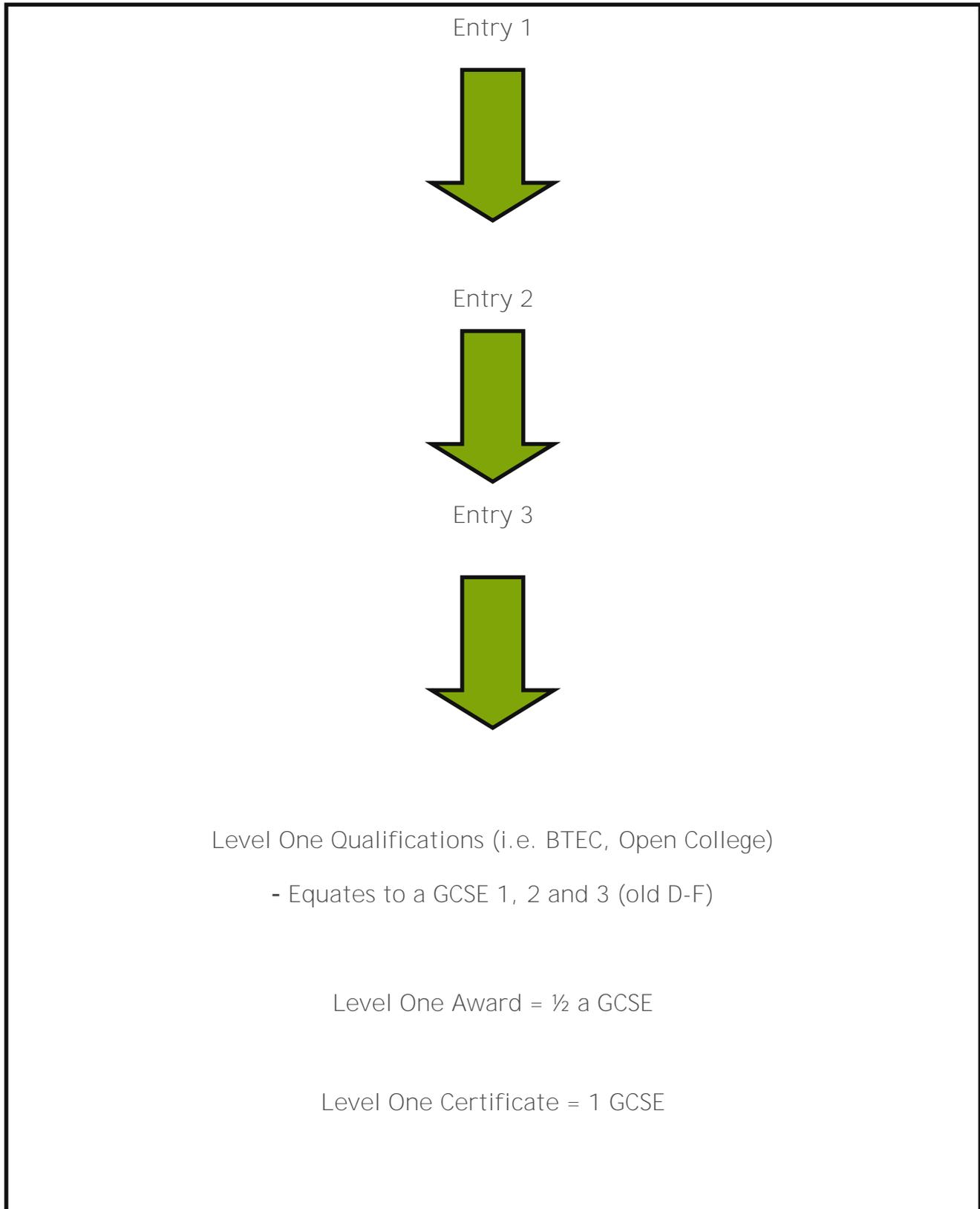
A Year in Post 16!





Accreditation - What does it mean?

Each course is catered for the individual needs of the student. Students will be given challenging targets but will be entered for the level of course that is most appropriate for them. The flow chart below indicates the progression of accreditation levels:



Personal Development

A number of our pupils have complex communication needs. These pupils require a high level of support to enable them to access aspects of the curriculum. As the needs of our pupils have become more complex, we have had to explore how to personalise their curriculum and prioritise what aspects of it are most appropriate for them to access. For many, the focus is on **developing their 'readiness to learn' and aspects of their personal development. This focus has** been reinforced by outcomes created as a result of the transfer to Education, Health and Care Plans.

The Personal Development programme at the school encompasses the following foci:

- Independence and Problem Solving
- Communication and Social Understanding
- Sensory and Self Care

Job Awareness, Connexions and Destinations

We believe that all students should have a good understanding of the job recruitment process. To support students in this, they have regular opportunities to apply for jobs based in School. In order to attain a job such as a sports coach, catering assistant, librarian and environment warden, students take part in our annual job awareness week where students they take part in mock interviews.

Students also receive advice from our dedicated Connexions Officer and regular meetings are held to discuss future aspirations and destinations.

Destinations for our leavers last academic year included Sandwell College, Dudley College, various training providers and one student went in to paid employment



Open College Living Independently

The Living Independently course is aimed at our Entry Level 1 and 2 students who have more complex needs. The aims of this course are to ensure that students develop personally and become more independent in applying skills for life. Areas covered on the course include:

- Accessing Public Transport
- Gardening for Pleasure
- Exploring Music
- Accessing Commercial Facilities
- Household Shopping
- Cooking
- Personal Care and Hygiene
- Hobbies



Open College Employment and Development Skills

This course combines the development of life skills and employment skills. Students embark on different vocational activities to support their understanding of the skills for the workplace. Core subjects are also included in this course and are applied practically. Areas covered include:

- Personal Budgeting and Managing Money
- Carrying out a Practical Activity
- Health and Safety in the Hair and Beauty Sector
- Washing and Valeting a Motor Vehicle
- Managing Money
- Speaking to Communicate
- Carrying out an Enterprise Activity
- Caring for a small animal
- Painting and Decorating



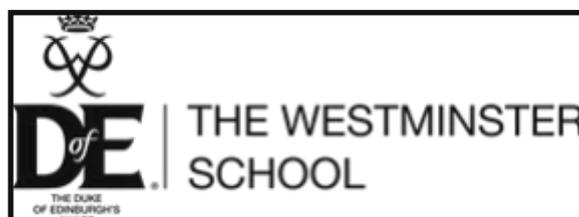
BTEC Accreditation

Many of our Post 16 students are capable of achieving at least Entry Level 3 qualifications in BTEC, with many completing Entry Level 1. The BTEC assessment methods mean that students complete ongoing coursework rather than an end-of-course external examination. Tasks are scenario based and linked to the workplace. The School currently offers the following BTEC courses:

- BTEC Sport and Active Leisure (Taking part in exercise and fitness, planning own fitness programme, managing health at work, assisting in a sport and active leisure activity)
- BTEC Art and Design (Accessory project, a project in 2D or 3D, exploring printing)
- BTEC Business Administration (Communicating electronically, creating business documents, roles and responsibilities)
- BTEC Performing Arts (Promoting an arts event, preparing and presenting performing arts work, performing arts individual repertoire and showcase)

Duke of Edinburgh

The School are very proud of our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Programme, so much so we attended Buckingham Palace in May 2016 to collect an award!



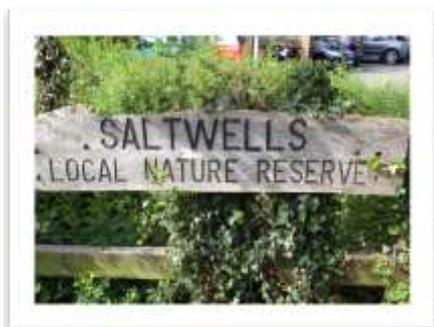
Students work towards either Silver or Bronze Awards. There are four sections to each Award:

- Practical
- Skill
- Volunteering
- Expedition



In order for students to be successful in their Award, they take part in community service; this includes helping run St Giles Church in Rowley Regis, undertaking conservation work at Saltwells Nature Reserve in Netherton and accessing fitness equipment at Portway Lifestyle Centre.

The final part of the course is an overnight expedition. This academic year our Clee group have started the course and are practicing for their expedition by visiting many local attractions such as Clent Hills, Saltwells Nature Reserve, Lickey Hills and Waseley Hills.



7to97 Social Enterprise



Currently only 6.8% of young people with learning difficulties achieve paid employment nationally. The Westminster School are determined to address this. Therefore we have established our social enterprise, 7to97 and the Supported Internships. The aim of the 7to97 project is to improve students understanding of key employability skills. The enterprise comprises of three mini businesses which are outlined below:

Party Popping Flavourz

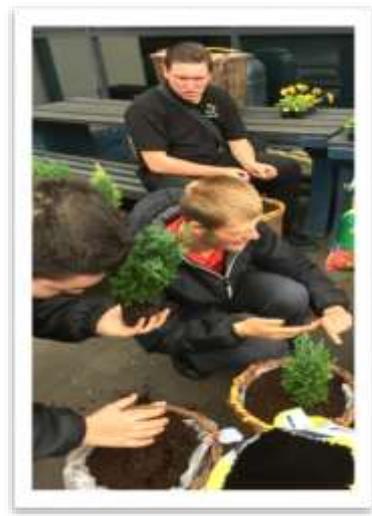
This business sees students researching new refreshing popcorn flavours ready to sell to the public. Students have taken ownership of ordering the equipment required to make the popcorn as well as organising promotional materials, designing packaging and making regular visits to local shops to keep good stock levels of ingredients.

Seeds of Hope

The Seeds of Hope enterprise compromises of students renovating pallets and turning them into garden planters and hanging baskets. Donations from local businesses enable students to develop these products which are cost effective. Students are developing their manufacturing skills as well as their understanding of using power tools safely.

Crafts of Westminster

The Crafts of Westminster recognise that the personal touch will always be an attractive option for customers. Students use the facilities available in our Design Technology room to create a range of crafts in line with special occasions throughout the calendar year.



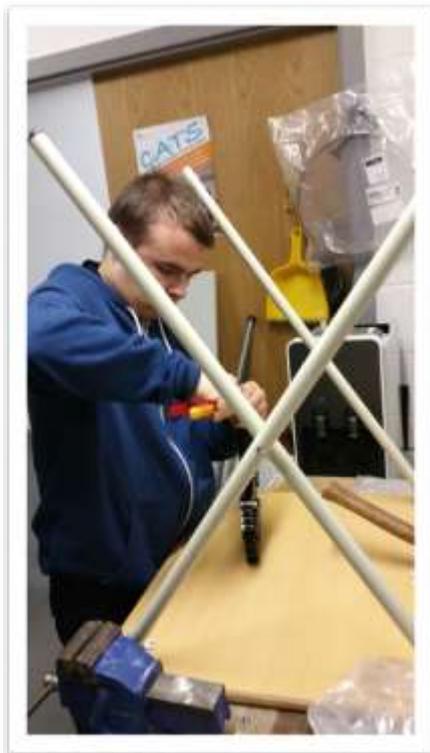
Supported Internships



The Supported Internship Programme started in September 2016 and is the first to be implemented in Sandwell.

The sole aim of the programme is to prepare students for the world of work by giving them a high quality work experience with a national business. We are delighted to be partnering with Interserve FM.

- Role of the Job Coach—The interns are supported by a Job Coach. The Job Coach is a member of School staff and supports the placement in ensuring strategies for the interns are appropriate and supportive.
- Relevant Qualifications— The programme is supported by appropriate and relevant qualifications linked to the work placement. Students currently on the programme have completed awareness programmes in General Health and Safety, Manual Handling and Basic Carpentry. Students also complete BTEC Level One Vocational Studies where units are chosen to support their work placement.
- Improved Confidence and Self Esteem—Students on the programme are treated just like a member of staff. We have seen excellent results because of this including improved levels of self esteem and confidence. Students currently complete many tasks independently.
- Progression—Once the students have completed their internships they could be offered a job by the work placement provider or offered a Supported Apprenticeship which is due to be piloted shortly.





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Contact Us

For more information about Post 16 and any of the information in this booklet please contact Mr B Taylor Assistant Head Teacher 14-19:

The Westminster School
Curral Road
Rowley Regis
B65 9AN

0121 5616884

headteacher
@westminster.sandwell.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at
www.thewestminsterschool.co.uk

Our vision:

Building foundations and providing opportunities to create confident, aspirational and independent members of our community.