

Appendix B

Proposal to change the age range and re-designate Ashley School

Frequently Asked Questions

(1) Will extending the age range at Ashley to 19 impacts on the total numbers of LDD students attending Riverside College?

There has been an increase in the number of learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in recent years. In 2010/2011 there were approximately 74 Halton students attending different post-16 establishments. The estimated number for 2013/2014 is 117. In 2012/2013 Riverside College has been funded for 50 learners. In 2013/2014 the estimated figure is 51.

(2) When will Ashley start to offer post-16 places?

Ashley current offer provision for pupils aged 11-16 years old. In order to provide quality post-16 provision both the environment and the curriculum will need to be developed. The current school premises will need to be extended and remodelled. This will be undertaken in 2013/2014 so that post-16 provision can be offered from September 2014.

(3) Will all Ashley pupils stay on at the school until they are 19?

The most appropriate post-16 provision for any current Ashley pupil will be determined at the annual review of the statement of SEN and will be based on the individual needs of the young people and the place that best meets these needs.

(4) How do I know which is the most suitable school for my child?

The most suitable schools is the one that offers the most appropriate curriculum for your child and allows your child to learn and make progress with other children with similar needs.

(5) What is the offer at Cavendish?

Cavendish has consistently offered an outstanding curriculum as reflected in the past three OfSTED Reports. Currently we run 3 personalised curriculum routes:

Years 7 & 8 follow the National Curriculum including core subjects of English, Maths & Science also PHSE & ICT. Other subjects such as History & Geography, Art, Design & Technology etc as umbrella subject coverage i.e.

Creative Arts or Humanities. The curriculum is delivered in a similar way to the primary school model with, currently three teachers offering the curriculum range.

Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 continue to follow the national curriculum however this is delivered as a modular approach and includes accreditation routes. The accreditation routes range from ASDAN, AQA or GVNQ to GCSE dependent on the students assessed ability. Qualifications tend to be ASDAN and AQA as these are pre-entry accreditations to GCSE and GVNQ. Media and Hospitality and Catering are particular strengths in the school and we are well equipped with computers, tablets and digital technology; the school has a home economics room where students can study catering.

Years 12 & 13 follow a vocational curriculum. This is a curriculum designed to prepare students to leave school and onwards to either further education colleges, employment or bespoke packages. They continue to follow the above accreditation routes however also complete an Employability accreditation. Employability focuses on Communication & Literacy, rather than English and Functional Numeracy rather than Mathematics. The Basic Skills qualification offered is recognised as a GCSE equivalent in numeracy and English. This course is similar to that offered in Colleges to adults who did not achieve GCSEs whilst at school.

There is a further curriculum which is offered to our students who require highly personalised learning and is completely tailored to the individual. This is a Functional Skills Curriculum and focuses on access skills including developing flexibility of thought and thinking skills. The accreditation routes are the same and the students will access the subjects and subject specialist teachers through bespoke timetabling.

Underpinning all learning in school is the development of students' communication skills and we currently have two Speech & Language Therapists who deliver individual and group language sessions across the school.

What is the offer at Ashley?

At Ashley School we offer a broad and balanced curriculum. We ensure that all students have equal access to a wide range of experiences and subsequent development of skills. The culture of Ashley School ensures that all pupils, regardless of their gender, social or cultural background or ability are able to access the full curriculum.

Our fundamental purpose is to ensure that high quality learning takes place through a curriculum suited to the different needs of all students bearing in mind the requirements of the National Curriculum.

In Key Stage 3 & 4, students study all subjects that are their entitlement within National Curriculum guidelines.

At Key Stage 4 students are offered accreditation, Students follow courses which reflect their academic ability,

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|-------------------------|---|
| English | GCSE or Entry Level |
| Maths | GCSE or Entry Level |
| Science | GCSE or Entry Level |
| ICT | Functional Skills L1, L2, Entry Level 2 & 3 |
| Art & Design (Fine Art) | GCSE |
| Art & Design (Textiles) | GCSE |
| Sports Leader | Level 1 & Level 2 |
| Drama | Entry Level |
| Food Technology | Entry Level |
| Child Care | Entry Level |
| Design Technology | Entry Level |
| Motor Vehicle | Entry Level |
| ASDAN Youth Award | Bronze & Silver Award |

CCA(Construction Awards Alliance) Level 1

Pupils at Ashley School are encouraged to join in the varied range of activities both within and outside school hours. Ashley Adventurers, Outdoor Learning and lunchtime ICT, Art and Pool Club.

I live in Runcorn but would like my child to attend Ashley school is this possible?

Your child could attend Ashley, regardless of your location in the borough, if the school curriculum and provision met your child's needs.

I live in Widnes but would like my child to attend Cavendish is this possible?

Your child could attend Cavendish, regardless of your location in the borough, if the school curriculum and provision met your child's needs.

Can my child attend Riverside College for post-16 provision?

The college has extensive provision for students with special educational needs and learning difficulties if this provision met your child's needs it would be possible for them to attend.

Riverside College Provision

Riverside College offers both specialist and mainstream provision from Entry level to level 3 (equivalent to A level). Foundation Studies offers an individually tailored programme which focuses on developing life skills and employability. All students undertake work placements as part of their preparation for employment and complete targeted qualifications. The department specialises in MLD, ASD and social and emotional difficulties. For those students accessing College mainstream provision (Vocational or A level) targeted one to one support is put in place.