

Careers Education at Chesnut Lodge

Intent

The intent of our Careers Curriculum at Chesnut Lodge is to provide an inclusive programme where all students are able to develop their skills, knowledge, understanding and aspirations for adulthood, where appropriate including the world of work. We intend to offer a range of pathways that allow pupils to be challenged at their own level whilst working towards potential independent, supported, experiential work placements or the development of engagement and independence skills.

To support with our careers provision at school, Chesnut Lodge has chosen to work with Talentino! who are an independent early career development organisation. We have selected a range of specially designed programmes which are created specifically for young people with a range of learning difficulties in special schools. The aims of the programme are to improve the possibility and probability of paid work; to improve work related skills for independent living and supported employment and enrich life experience.

Implementation

Our curriculum is split into 3 pathways, a pre-formal curriculum for learners working at engagement level, semi-formal for learners working at pre and very early national curriculum levels and formal curriculum for those learners able to access the full national curriculum.

Primary

Pupils in the primary phase begin their 'careers' pathway as soon as they start at Chesnut Lodge. From Foundation Stage onwards our curriculum focuses on developing crucial lifeskills in cognition, communication, understanding of the world, personal and social education etc. Pupils learn through a wide range of experiences including role play, lessons and activities, going out in the local community and visits from people in our local community.

These experiences, knowledge and skills are extended and/or consolidated through the completion of an annual enterprise project where pupils take part in a range of activities focusing on planning, designing, making and selling goods or services. Projects are then presented to the school at the end of the year through an enterprise assembly.

Secondary

Pupils in the Secondary department take part in more formalised careers work, including activities and lessons using Talentino!

Pre-Formal groups – Talentino! Careers at Every Level: PMLD Enterprise Curriculum.

Semi Formal – Talentino! Careers at Every Level: Work related Skills for Independent Living.

Formal KS3 – Talentino! Careers at Every Level: Bambino Stem Employability Skills / Enterprise, leading onto:

Formal KS4 – Talentino! Careers at Every Level: Careers Coaching at Every Level .

As with primary, pupils at secondary age also take part in an annual enterprise project that is presented to the school at the end of the year.

Impact

All pupils become active, respected and productive members of the community.

Pupils leaving Chesnut Lodge from the pre-formal pathway transition to further education and tailored programmes of activities, experiences and community involvement based on their needs and interests.

Pupils leaving Chesnut Lodge from the semi-formal pathways move into further education and continue working towards supported work placements and increased levels of independent living in adulthood.

Pupils leaving Chesnut Lodge from the formal pathway move into further education and continue working towards supported and/or independent internships, apprenticeships, paid employment and independent living.