

Elm Court School



Careers Strategy

We have demonstrated our commitment to provide impartial, independent careers education, information, advice and guidance to all of our students from Years 6 to 14. Young people who have special educational needs or disabilities need to be prepared for independence, or supported independence, to equip them for further study or employment.

We work cohesively with external agencies to provide our students with the opportunity to complete work experience, employment workshops and deliver career focused session in school involving parent/carers and local labour market to ensure students are aware of opportunities available to them in their communities.

The whole school takes part in career focused curriculum from YR 6 through to YR14, to ensure that careers and employability is inclusive to all students with a solid understanding of current labour market, career choices and aspirations this is done termly with a career focused week. This consist of activities cross curricula i.e. competitions, games and offsite visits to Kidzania and local businesses to explore different pathways and avenues into careers.

Students from YR10 to 14 all have the opportunity to get involved in work experience, this is where external providers such as Newstart, Spiral, SPARKS and Seetec all work collectively with the school to match up career choices to real life working experiences. They take part in making choices with parent/carer about which career they would like to trial. For those students who are not able to take part in work experience due to medical needs there is an opportunity to attend an Industry Insight Day in the local community working alongside local businesses in Lambeth such as Morley Department Store, Premier Inn and Charity Stores. During this period students are involved in Employer Engagement Workshops where interview skills are implemented with 8 employers from businesses, students take part in role play to gain an insight and understanding of skills needed at interview process. Employers give students feedback and this is then documented and used for evaluation and review.

KS4 & 5 students have the opportunity to successfully participate in weekly in house work experience sessions at school with the premises Officer to learn new skills such as painting and decorating, recycling and general responsibilities around the school. This in turn supports students with independent living, communication and self-esteem. Students in KS5 take part in life skills programme whereby they learn to shop, manage money, pick menus and make their own breakfast and lunches to enhance their social, communication and confidence.

The curriculum at KS4 & 5 is tailored towards students taking part in Pathway Courses such as Horticulture, Art & Design, DT, Childcare, Computing, PE, Music Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, Home Cooking Skills and Business & Enterprise. The school also employs an Artist in Residence for Performing Arts where students can acquire BTEC qualifications and access to Performing Arts Colleges such as The BRIT School.

Newstart is an NCFE Level 1 & 2 accredited provision which we use for KS4 & 5 students to learn Multi Skills and Creative Craft, this programme is accessed by all students who show an interest in Construction.

We work closely with the CEIAG framework to ensure that we follow the Gatsby career guidance benchmarks, which is being implemented in all schools in the future. All students at KS4 have access to impartial and individual career guidance from external advisor to talk about their choices for further education and employment. These sessions are used to ease anxiety and make plans for the future in a structured environment. A plan is devised together with the IAG officer and shared with parent/carers this process ensures that students' have an awareness of opportunities, raising their aspirations and working with them to ensure they achieve their full potential.