



Alternative Education Programme

2009-10

Programme Information and Referral Guidelines

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Programme Information

The Box provides a programme of alternative education for students aged between 14 and 16 years in Year 10 and 11.

The programme provides learning in a more informal setting for students who find it hard to learn in the structured environment of school and to allow these students to achieve in a range of accredited courses.

The programme covers two years and is taught in two half day sessions a week, running alongside an extended work experience placement and possibly a college place. Learning takes place in an informal environment and with a staff-to-student ratio of at least one-to-two, and often one-to-one. We offer appropriate qualifications and accreditation suitable for those of all levels with a short attention span and poor concentration.

Students are accepted on to the programme on a referral basis only and are usually referred by their school, but self-referral is possible in the case of students not on roll at any school.

Alongside a wide and varied programme of activities and opportunities, students will be given the opportunity to learn and achieve in the following areas:

Accredited Elements

ASDAN Bronze Award and Silver Award

The ASDAN Awards are portfolio based and recognise achievement across the curriculum areas, allowing the students to develop knowledge and skills through project work and practical activities. Topics covered include World of Work, Health, Expressive Arts, Information and Number Handling, Life Skills, The Environment, Technology and Sport.

AQA Entry Level Certificates in English, Maths and PSHE

Entry Level Certificates accredit students at a level below GCSE. They allow students with poor attendance, concentration or commitment, who might not be able to complete a full GCSE course, to progress and achieve in these areas. They provide the ideal stepping stone for moving on to college and to GCSEs at a later stage.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy National Tests

Students who are unable to complete English and Maths GCSEs can achieve accreditation in Literacy and Numeracy that is recognised by colleges and employers. Testing is on-screen and can take place at any time in the course. Students can achieve at Level 1 (GCSE level D-G) and Level 2 (GCSE level A-C)

AQA Unit Awards in specific areas of interest

Unit Awards allow students to receive a certificate of recognition for the completion of a wide range of knowledge and skills based units. These could be related to the student's progress in their work experience placement or a specific area of interest the student wishes to pursue.

Core Elements (Non-accredited)

Horizons

A series of activities devised by our staff with the aim of broadening students' wider knowledge and understanding of cultural, political, historical and geographical issues.

Emotional Health

Occasional activities designed to allow students the chance to explore their emotional health and develop strategies to deal with relevant issues, such as managing anger and confrontation.

Spiritual Space

A broadly Christian 'assembly-style' activity takes place for five minutes each week with the aim of allowing students to reflect on their spiritual and moral growth and their own beliefs.

Creative Space

Activities allowing students to access a range of art and craft materials and providing the time and space for them to experiment with their creativity.

Additional Elements

As part of the programme students will have the opportunity to take part in a number of additional activities which may include:

- Fitness Programme in partnership with Concept Fitness
- Drama Programme in partnership with East 15 Acting School
- Outdoor Activities at Lambourne End Activity Centre
- Visit to Connexions Centre and opportunity to meet with Connexions PA for careers advice
- Visits to places of interest such as wildlife centres, museums and theatres.

A Complete Programme

Counselling Programme

All students are given the opportunity to access a structured programme of counselling (up to 10 sessions) with The Box counsellor. Students will have an initial meeting with the counsellor where they will have the choice to engage in an individually tailored programme or they may choose to opt for one-off mentoring sessions. This is an optional element which students can access at any time during the programme.

Work Experience

As part of their commitment to the programme, students will be expected to undertake an extended work experience placement, with the possible addition of a day at college, on the days of the week that they do not attend The Box. This placement will be organized and managed by staff at The Box and Health and Safety checked by Trident. The student will be supported by staff as much as possible in order to complete their placement successfully and gain a positive experience of the workplace. Students will complete units of work that allow them to reflect upon and learn from their experience, and may be offered the chance to further develop knowledge and skills specific to their area of work.

Moving into Further Education, Employment or Training

Towards the end of the programme, students will meet with a Connexions Adviser and be given the opportunity to devise a career action plan. Staff at The Box will support all students in applying for college places and jobs and attending interviews, if necessary.

Celebrating Success

The end of the course, and the end of the students' secondary school education, is marked with a Leavers' Ceremony. Parents, friends, supporters and staff are invited to attend to celebrate as students receive their certificates and special awards and to view pieces of work and photos of activities and achievements. This is a chance for all students to experience achievement.

Referral Guidelines – Entry September 2009

Referrals can be made to The Box Alternative Education Programme for young people who will be in either Year 10 or Year 11 in September 2009 with reference to the following guidelines:

The programme is suitable for students where removal from the school environment and the normal curriculum is deemed necessary for their wellbeing and academic progress.

We recommend students are referred only when all other strategies have been unsuccessful in settling the student into mainstream education.

A number of factors might lead to the referral of a student and these may include:

- repeated confrontation with staff leading to a breakdown in constructive relationships
- unhealthy relationships with other students
- persistent absence
- inability to function appropriately in the school environment or classroom, possibly exacerbated by low ability or special educational needs
- current behaviour in school is unmanageable and potentially dangerous

Referral should be made where the student:

- is deemed to be at risk of exclusion or non-achievement in their current situation
- would benefit from additional emotional support such as counselling and mentoring
- is in need of a curriculum different from the normal GCSE pathway, taught in a more informal environment
- would benefit from short sessions of varied activities with a high staff to student ratio, alongside an extended work experience placement and possibly college.