

Sixth Form: Extended Curriculum

Our extended curriculum is aimed at broadening the experiences of the young people in our Sixth Form department. They provide a mixture of social and educational experiences beyond what we are able to offer as part of our core curriculum. These opportunities are offered through a range of: lunchtime and afterschool clubs; residential experiences; external courses and accreditations, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and Princes Trust programme; and links with schemes such as High Tides and Middlesbrough Football Club. We also try and find relevant work experience opportunities for our students to engage with.

Work Experience

Work experience is a valuable part of our curriculum and allows our students to gain first-hand experience of the world of work. The placements allow the discovery of new areas of interest and help them to firm up ideas about future work and study. We have a particularly strong relationship with James Cook University Hospital and they frequently remark on the amount our students grow in the time they have with them. Here are some comments that hospital staff have made about students during their placements:

"He continues to entertain our patients with his card tricks and games, he is so polite and his sense of humour really shines, he is so confident in the role."

"His knowledge of everything is amazing, he can engage with patients and picks up on the patients' likes and dislikes and directs conversations towards this."

"I am amazed by how much he has grown in confidence, he has gone from really quiet to being very smiley and confident. He is a pleasure."

External Courses and Accreditation

External courses and accreditation enables us to give our students the opportunity to learn in a range of different environments. This can help prepare them to move on from school by: giving them a feel for different settings, helping them achieve qualifications to access higher levels of learning and introducing them to areas that they may wish to pursue further. They also provide an enhanced range of experiences due to access to facilities that we don't have within the school. It also reinforces prior learning by helping students apply their knowledge to different settings and situations. Alongside this the courses give them the chance to develop a better understanding of their local communities and what is available within them.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and John Muir Award

Our work with the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust enables our students to give back to their local communities and to learn many new skills that they would not be able to access within the classroom. It involves them volunteering with the wildlife service to complete a series of small scale projects and workshops aimed at helping them complete the John Muir Award. This award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation

This is an opportunity to do some offsite learning at the Riverside Stadium on a level 1 course. It is an ideal opportunity to get a feel for education in a different setting and will help prepare students for life beyond school. There will be a focus upon employability skills with plenty of opportunities for team work, problem solving and development of communication skills. There will be a mixture of written and practical tasks alongside some sports.

High Tides

High Tides give students the opportunity to learn about the work of a busy port. The scheme introduces students to work related learning in an industrial setting. Students are given the opportunity to take part in a six week cadet-ship programme where they learn about logistics, harbour operation and related jobs. They also offer the opportunity to take part in a trip on a two day adventure on a sailing boat where they learn skills such as how to crew the boat and how to work as a team.

Princes Trust

The XL Programme is a scheme designed to help students develop the skills and confidence needed to progress into a positive future. It involves them working as a small team to improve their knowledge and skills across five areas:

- Personal and Social Development
- Life Skills
- Active Citizenship
- Enterprise Projects
- Preparation for Work