



St Catherine's
School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

St Catherine's School Sixth Form College

Integrated Programmes of Speech and Language
Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Education and
Residential Care

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Introduction

St Catherine's Sixth Form College supports young people aged 16 to 19 with speech, language and communication needs and associated conditions. It is part of St Catherine's School and College, a non-maintained residential special school based in Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.

Our students' placements are usually funded by their local authority and all of our young people have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). The provision offered aims to meet each individual's specific needs.

The College exists to provide students with the opportunity to improve their knowledge, understanding and learning skills within a small-group teaching situation. Their learning is underpinned and supported by intensive and integrated speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. Teachers and therapists also work together within the classroom to deliver programmes.

The College's aim is for students to make sufficient educational and functional linguistic progress in order to be successful in the completion of any future vocational training, education or employment, whilst at the same time supporting their transition to adulthood.

Education and therapy services are supported by a skilled, dedicated care team as well as trained medical staff. All teams aim to develop the emotional, spiritual and physical well-being of each young person so they are ready to and able to learn to access the social and recreational opportunities available to them.

Promoting healthy living is an integral part of the School Nurses' roles, combining health education in the classroom, help and advice in the houses, and weekly drop-in sessions for sixth form students.

Students are guided towards accepting personal responsibility across all aspects of their lives as they move towards becoming independent young adults.

By attending St Catherine's Sixth Form College, young people with speech, language and communication needs will have the opportunity to:

- strengthen their learning skills and raise their literacy and numeracy competences;
- try out vocational training courses and enjoy a variety of work experience;
- improve their communicative ability;
- grow in personal and social maturity;
- gain externally accredited qualifications; and
- raise their levels of independence and gain a range of life skills, whilst at the same time being supported in their integration into the local community and having opportunities for social interaction and the development of their interests.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

St Catherine's has a commitment to anti-discriminatory practice that relates to all kinds of discrimination. Opportunity for achievement will be created for each student regardless of age, disability, race, sex, religion or cultural beliefs or sexual orientation.

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

There are two pathways within the college. The Independent Living Pathway and the Progression Pathway. Students follow a programme, which is appropriate for the level they are working at. Both Pathways follow a three year programme of study.

The Independent Living Pathway focuses on functional skills required to promote independence. All students on this pathway work towards the OCR Life and Living Entry Level BTEC. This BTEC allows students to develop their literacy and numeracy skills within units which are chosen to appeal to the cohort. The group go on many off-site trips and the focus is on independence and is based around preparing for adulthood themes.

The Progression Pathway focuses more on an academic route with a variety of subjects. Students follow an educational curriculum comprising a balance of courses according to each individual's interests and abilities. The courses are delivered over a three year period. The qualifications offered vary from year to year depending on the cohort, a table of qualifications we have offered is in Appendix A.

The Sixth Form College's education and therapy programmes dovetail with highly specialised and individually tailored life skills and leisure programmes. We have our own college based therapists. Teaching staff and therapists work as a fully integrated team who also liaise closely with parents of day students and residential staff for our residential students. We also work with parents and carers in order to support our young people's social and recreational activities within the College and the wider community. Students are encouraged to develop individual talents and interests as well as participating in opportunities to enhance their personal and social development.

Careers is integrated across the curriculum as well as within PSHE. Students take part in structured work experience with a range of local employers on the Island, the type of work experience is selected based on their interests and aspirations.

Close liaison between the staff at the College and other agencies ensures that each individual student is both supported and challenged appropriately, according to their own specific needs and abilities. By the end of their time at the Sixth Form College, the aim is for each student to be able to make realistic and suitable choices for their future, helping them to move towards independent living, establishing new routines and identifying and achieving their goals.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Speech and language therapy is delivered in three ways in the Sixth Form College, closely correlated to students' coursework and life skills programmes.

1. Students receive small group or individual therapy, which continues to address their particular needs in receptive, expressive and social communication skills.

A personal programme is devised, incorporating contributions for their own goals for improvement in communication. Emphasis is placed on taking responsibility for persisting areas of difficulty and learning effective strategies to overcome these. The form in which these therapy sessions take place is responsive to each student's needs.

2. Speech and language therapy is also delivered in the classroom in collaboration with teaching staff to:
 - a) support and reinforce the development of the student's vocabulary towards more age-appropriate levels, particularly in those subject areas which involve words and concepts at an adult level;
 - b) assist the comprehension of text according to their specific disabilities in processing language (e.g. the retention of information, the perception of implied or inferred information below the surface structure);
 - c) assist and guide the organisation of students' written language and literacy as necessary, with reference to their original difficulties with sequencing sounds and sentences, phonological disabilities etc.; and
 - d) develop their understanding of social communication within the context of the Sixth Form College environment.
3. Group therapy sessions are also provided to support young people's functional communication and understanding of social interaction. Students have the opportunity to concentrate on:
 - a) expanding their knowledge and use of idioms and inferences in conversation – decoding 'hidden messages' and understanding the real meanings behind spoken words;
 - b) practise their improved spoken language and communicative strategies within the safety of the group;
 - c) expanding their social use of language as young adults, e.g. putting into practise listening to others, negotiating, compromising, and so on within group exercises before using them in the real workplace and community;
 - d) following a programme of personal, social and health education focusing on some of the issues that students at this age may encounter, including alcohol, drugs and sex education, and
 - e) developing their confidence and self-esteem.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The aims of occupational therapy at St Catherine's Sixth Form are as follows:

1. To establish and raise sensory, motor and visual perceptual competence and independence in activities of daily living, through programmes of therapy which address the specific needs of the student.
2. To enable young adults to maximise their capacity for learning, by providing support in the college, or in individual or small group work to enable each student to access their chosen education curriculum more effectively, with a clear focus on the acquisition of new skills.
3. To empower the young people to manage their own sensory and self-regulation needs by providing them with strategies that they can apply on an as needed basis as independently as possible.
4. To improve and compensate for fine and gross motor difficulties so that the young adult is able to engage as independently as possible in productive occupations, leisure activities and self-care tasks.
5. To enable the young adult to engage in activities and occupations that are meaningful to them.
6. To support the young adult to be as independent as possible in engaging in activities of daily living.
7. To support the young adult to be as independent as possible in engaging in instrumental activities of daily living.
8. To support the young adult to identify and achieve the next step of their learning and living journey.
9. To support the development of functional skills within the context of the wider community.
10. Providing staff training, as required, to enable all staff to support the development of young adults sensory, motor and functional skills.

The occupational therapy team works to assess, develop and support young adults in the following areas:

- Sensory integration skills;
- Gross motor skills;
- Fine motor skills;
- Visual perception skills; and
- Functional activities of daily living.

A holistic approach ensures that each young adult's skills are developed across the waking day and into the educational environment. They do this through a combination of in-depth assessments, individual programmes, paired or group work as well as general educational and residential support.

THE CURRICULUM

Students with speech, language and communication needs may have had difficulties in accessing the curriculum and in applying their skills appropriately. Students between 16 and 19 years continue to need a broad and balanced curriculum with integrated speech and language therapy and occupational therapy to meet their needs and to enable them to achieve their potential. They may also need to revisit some areas of the National Curriculum to further establish and consolidate their learning.

At St Catherine's Sixth Form College the curriculum has been designed to meet each student's needs by following a broad curriculum.

English

Our students continue to need intensive specialist teaching in this curriculum area, specifically with respect to skills in written and spoken language. Their English skills are developed through all subjects as part of our integrated approach.

Mathematics

All students are supported to become as competent as possible in numeracy. Students with speech, language and communication needs may have specific difficulties with the concepts and vocabulary of mathematics and continue, post-16, to need specific teaching in this area.

Mathematics, however, cannot be taught in isolation and throughout the curriculum, and within the residential setting, there are opportunities for students to develop and improve their numeracy skills, e.g. Young Enterprise, Life Skills, Cooking, Technology, Independent Living.

PSHE

Students with learning disabilities often exhibit difficulties with understanding themselves as part of society, can be confused by concepts of space and time as well as sometimes finding it hard to think about the needs of others.

Online safety is taught throughout the curriculum with dedicated lessons within PSHE along with lessons dedicated to all aspects of finance and preparation for life after St Catherine's.

PSHE covers a range of topical issues to help prepare students for life in the real world. An awareness of life in a multicultural society is a key element of this as well as an understanding of the concept of being British.

Careers Education and Guidance

Careers Education is vital so that students can equip themselves for the world of work, future education or training and to develop positive attitudes to lifelong learning. Careers Education is supported by input from an Independent Careers Advisor as well as throughout the curriculum and PSHE.

Work Experience

The chance to undertake work experience provides students with opportunities to develop their understanding of the world of work and enhance their prospects of employability. There is a work experience co-ordinator and job coach who supports the students to choose their placement as well as on their placement as necessary. All students experience periods of planned and structured work experience, which are reviewed regularly.

Appendix A

EXPLANATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

The table below shows the different types of accreditation that can be offered at St Catherine's School and Sixth Form College, and how they fit into the National Qualifications Framework. The courses offered vary year to year depending on the cohort.

National Qualifications Framework Level	Accreditation offered at St Catherine's (according to individual need)
<p>Entry level Which is broken into: Entry 1 Entry 2 Entry 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entry Level Certificate (English, Maths, ICT, Art, Design & Technology, Music, Science) - AQA Unit Awards (Maths and ICT) - Entry Level English Functional Skills - Entry Level Mathematics Functional Skills - BTEC Living and Life Skills Entry Level 1-3
<p>Level 1 (e.g. GCSE grades D – G or 4 - 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCSE (Maths, English, Music, Art, Photography) - BTEC Certificate (IT, Vocational Studies and Land Based Studies) - Level 1 Functional Skills Mathematics - Level 1 Functional Skills English - BTEC Science Level 1 and - Work Skills Level 1
<p>Level 2 (e.g. GCSE grades A** - C or 9 - 5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCSE (Maths, English, Science, Art, Photography, Music) - BTEC Certificate (Applied Science, Cooking) - Level 2 Functional Skills Mathematics - Level 2 Functional Skills English

For further information about St Catherine's Sixth Form College, please contact the Admissions Co-ordinator on 01983 852722 or email admissions@stcatherines.org.uk

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