



## **SEN Information Report**

The Skills Hub is a co-educational Alternative Provision that caters for students in the London Borough of Hillingdon who cannot attend mainstream school for a variety of reasons; predominantly permanent exclusion – those that access the main centre of the provision, and serious medical issues – those that access peripatetic tuition via the Pupil Support Team.

### **Our leaders and staff**

Our highly experienced and qualified staff includes specialist teachers, learning support assistants, skills coaches and therapists. Our leaders' names and qualifications can be viewed on our website at: [www.theskillshub.org](http://www.theskillshub.org)

### **The curriculum**

We recognise that the majority of our students thrive via a varied curriculum that is practical based and introduces students to and enhances their experiences via an enrichment programme.

The school adopts a therapeutic approach to helping students to develop the social skills and emotional resilience needed to become successful both as learners at school and subsequently in later life. The Enrichment programme is designed to work in conjunction with other therapeutic interventions to help develop social skills, build confidence and self-esteem, improve communication skills, learn new skills and enhance teamwork.

At Key Stage 4 students have the option of studying vocational courses in preparation for future careers such as: Construction Hair & Beauty and Mechanics.

### **Therapy**

A range of therapies is a central and integrated aspect of our offer and is provided on an individual, group and sometimes whole-class basis.

Our therapists are fully qualified and experienced professionals who work collaboratively and seamlessly with teaching & support colleagues to maximise impact on improving students' social, emotional & mental health.



Our therapy offer includes:

Canine-assisted reading program - The Canine-assisted literacy program increases student reading engagement, improving student confidence and academic performance in both reading accuracy and comprehension. Animal-assisted therapy supports young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties along with learning support and mental health.

The **aim** of the intervention is to:

- Improve emotional wellbeing
- Reduce anxiety and stress
- Positively impact social skills
- Aid attainment in literacy
- Provide a calming influence in the classroom
- Boost self-esteem and confidence
- Increase motivation and attendance
- Improve behaviour and emotional regulation
- Reduce exam and transitional stress
- Enhance emotional wellbeing

Art Therapy - Art Therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses art media as its main mode of expression and communication. Art therapy is used to improve cognitive functions, foster self-esteem and self-awareness, cultivate emotional resilience, promote insight, enhance social skills, reduce and resolve conflicts and distress, and advance social and ecological change.

Psychologist – Psychologists support children that are experiencing mental health related difficulties or learning difficulties (Education Psychologist). These difficulties may impact on their education and life in general. They will also work with parents/carers, teaching staff and liaise with agencies such as CAMHS and MASH.

Whilst we contract or employ all of our therapists directly, we work with the multitude of agencies in as joined-up, efficient and effective a way as possible. This includes local authority SEN & EHC teams, NHS colleagues and social care services.

## **Approach to behaviour**

We understand that many of our students arrive at The Skills Hub having had very difficult experiences of school in the past. With the skill and dedication of our staff, we aim to reconnect them with education so they can make progress to becoming successful adults via a reflective approach. We offer a bespoke 1:1 programme based on our '101 Behaviour



Strategies' that supports the challenges the young person faces in managing their own behaviours.

Reflection and restorative practice, as opposed to detentions and exclusions, is used to help students understand what is currently happening, what they are trying and using well, and how they can move forward.

## **Student progress**

Students' progress is measured by:

- Half termly assessments (academic, personal and social development)
- Termly target setting meetings with solution teams and parents and carers

## **Facilities**

We acknowledge that are premises are outdated and do our best to maintain a building that has long since out grown its purpose. Therefore, we look forward to a purpose built rebuild planned to open in 2023.

Facilities currently consist of:

- Science lab
- ILT room
- Dedicated therapy areas
- Meeting room to meet with and support our families
- Music/recording studio
- Mechanics workshop

## **Support for families**

We actively encourage a strong partnership between home and school and involve parents and carers as much as we possibly can. Solution Teams negotiate the level of desired contact with families, which can be as frequent as daily.

We operate an 'open door' policy to see the school's leaders and offer both informal 'drop-in' sessions with therapists and family workers.

Accessible, simple progress reports are provided every term to parents. Our admissions process is centred around the family and the child, as is our termly review process via target setting days.



## **Complaints**

The Skills Hub wishes to communicate effectively with our parents, students and wider community. However, we accept that we can on occasion make mistakes or fail to communicate as well as we would wish.

The Skills Hub is committed to dealing with complaints promptly, fairly and carefully. We encourage parents, carers and other members of the school community to raise (on an informal basis) any concerns they have at the earliest opportunity. In most instances, this will involve speaking directly with the member of staff concerned, who will try to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

You can get in touch with us in the following ways:

- By letter – The Skill Hub, Providence Road, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8HJ
- By email – [info@theskillshub.org](mailto:info@theskillshub.org)
- By telephone – 01895 447 102
- Or in person, after making an appointment



If you remain dissatisfied, the school has a formal Complaints Policy which sets out a structure under which your complaint can be heard. You can access the policy on our website at [www.theskillshub.org](http://www.theskillshub.org)

In the first instance all complaints should be brought to the attention of the Principal, Mr. Paul Chambers **Tel:** 01895 447102 or **Email:** [Pchambers@yphub.org](mailto:Pchambers@yphub.org)

Or alternatively, if the complaint is with reference to the Principal the complaint should be made to Laurie Cornwell, Executive Head/DeputyCEO, Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS

### The Local Offer

We offer placements to Hillingdon Local Authority and are included on its Local Offer as a providers of Alternative Provision.

### Contacting us

The Skills Hub	Providence Road, Yiewsley, Middlesex, UB7 8HJ 01895 447102 <a href="mailto:info@theskillshub.org">info@theskillshub.org</a>
Principal: Paul Chambers	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:pchambers@yphub.org">pchambers@yphub.org</a>
Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo): Laura Herzog	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:lherzog@yphub.org">lherzog@yphub.org</a>
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Katie Donegan	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:kdonegan@yphub.org">kdonegan@yphub.org</a>
Attendance Officer: Martine McDowell	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:mmcdowell@yphub.org">mmcdowell@yphub.org</a>
Clerk to the Local Governing Body: Suzanna Challenger	<a href="mailto:schallenger@orchardhill.ac.uk">schallenger@orchardhill.ac.uk</a> Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS
Executive Head/Deputy CEO Laurie Cornwell,	Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS