

St Aubyn Centre Therapeutic Education Department

Information on Core Subjects

English

English is a core subject in the curriculum at the St. Aubyn Centre. English lessons are provided to all young people in Key Stages 3 and 4, as well as A Level students who are studying English courses. Furthermore, the literacy skills of all post-16 students are assessed and those young people with deficits in their learning receive appropriate teaching to address their needs. Functional Skills qualifications in English (beginning at Entry Level 1) are available to students who not yet ready to tackle GCSE studies. Functional Skills qualifications help to build confidence and are valuable in the transition to further education.

On admission, we make contact with the young person's school or college to establish their current position in regard to English, as well as collecting up-to-date information about their present syllabus and examination board. Data from the school will be compared to our own assessment of the young person's reading and writing skills in order to prepare a fitting teaching programme that is at once suitably challenging, yet takes account of the difficulties associated with their mental health problems.

At the St. Aubyn Centre we accentuate the importance of robust literacy skills across the curriculum and we strive to use imaginative and creative methods to engage and motivate the students. Young people are encouraged to understand the links between enhanced English skills and stronger performance in other subjects. The utility of developing English language skills as a means of expressing difficult thoughts and feelings more precisely is emphasised with special regard to the context of the young peoples' situation. We keep a well-stocked and up to date library and have access to a wealth of literature online.

Maths

Maths is taught to all young people in Key Stages 3 and 4 and all post-16 students who have not yet achieved a grade 4 in GCSE maths. We also teach A level maths to those studying it at school or college, and offer a financial skills course to post 16 students who wish to take it.

We liaise closely with the young person's home school in order to ensure that they are able to keep up with their peers, and that they will have covered the same content on their return to school. An initial baseline assessment is also used so that gaps in knowledge can be identified and addressed. Where students are not currently on roll at a school, a suitable programme of study is provided.

We prepare students for exam entries including GCSE, iGCSE, A Level and Functional Skills Qualifications. Students are able to sit their exams here if they are with us over the exam period. We also strive to meet the needs of students who may have missed the chance to take exams and can enter students for Functional Skills qualifications throughout the year.

Many young people arrive with profound anxieties related to Maths; particular care and attention is given to addressing this issue so that effective learning can take place. All learning is personalised and confidence building is a priority.

Science

Science is taught to all young people attending education at The St Aubyn Centre. Staff liaise closely with subject teachers from the young person's school to ensure they keep up to date with the topics covered by their peers.

At Key Stage 3, pupils are taught topics as directed by their school, or in the absence of this information, gaps in their science learning are identified and targeted. For a young person working towards a qualification in science, we have resources for all GCSE Science specifications for all exam boards, BTEC Applied Science, A-Level Physics, A-Level Chemistry, A-Level Biology. We have resources and expertise to teach all levels of science education.

We have a fully functional science lab and prep room, with equipment and chemicals to allow most practical activities up to and beyond GCSE, including the GCSE Science Required Practical Activities. Often the young people have little experience of conducting experiments, or have not been in practical science lessons in some time. All practical lessons are carefully risk assessed with respect to the equipment being used and the individuals involved. The objectives of these lessons have a focus on teaching pupils strategies for managing their own safety. We also take pupils on visits to the local woodland for field work and pond-dipping as part of environmental studies.

For young people who are not taking science at school, we offer a number of science related activities and projects, such as the butterfly project, building a mudrock volcano, making a science scrapbook, the Sports & Fitness ASDAN

course, healthy living as part of the ASDAN PSHE programme or ASDAN Foodwise course, or Science & Ethics lessons to encourage critical thinking and discussion skills.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Much of our therapeutic work includes elements of PSHE and RSE, and students will have many conversations, particularly with their key teachers, which explore these issues. In addition to this pupils are taught PSHE more formally for one lesson each week. Our Relationships and Sex education is also included in this lesson. The lesson is taught as a whole group activity as it is felt that pupils should continue to have experience of larger groups. It is delivered by a group of teachers with specialist knowledge and outside speakers from a range of organisations such as The Children's Society. The lesson includes topics such as drug and alcohol misuse, sex and relationships, personal and internet safety and equality issues. We also focus on special days such as Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembrance Sunday and Mental Health Awareness Week. We encourage pupils to take part in fundraising events and we have raised money for UNICEF and Comic Relief. The course is accredited by ASDAN and pupils can gain a certificate if they complete sufficient modules.