

## **Orchard Hill College Local Offer**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Children and Families Act 2014 aims to transform the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. As part of the reforms, local authorities must provide a local offer of support. The local offer brings together information about services young people and their families can access from birth to 25, including providers of specialist education, healthcare and social care.

### **ORCHARD HILL COLLEGE**

Orchard Hill College (OHC) is an Outstanding specialist College offering life-changing learning opportunities to young people and adults. We have eight vibrant College centres across London and Surrey where committed, specialist teams deliver a range of programmes to meet the needs of our students.

As an Outstanding College we are committed to improving opportunities and outcomes for our students, this is at the heart of everything we do. For young people, especially those with special needs or who experience other barriers to learning, the world can present many challenges. All young people deserve to leave education confident that they have developed the skills they need to achieve their ambitions, with meaningful education, work and life experiences to draw on. This is the confidence we aim to deliver.

### **LOCAL OFFER**

The services we provide at Orchard Hill College will form part of every local authority's local offer.

Please read below answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about how we deliver our programmes as part of your local offer.

#### **1) Who can attend Orchard Hill College?**

Students who study with us have a wide range of needs including:

- Profound and multiple learning disabilities
- Moderate learning difficulties
- Physical and sensory impairments
- Mental health and/or emotional difficulties
- Communication and behavioural difficulties

- Social and communication disorders e.g. Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Specific medical needs

All our students are individual and each programme is as unique as they are from Skills for Work and Living, Foundation Skills for Life to our WorkStart programmes. Our courses are designed to support and empower each student to achieve their aspirations and goals, which link to four study programmes linked to the Preparing for Adulthood Pathways; Employment, Independent Living, Friends, Relationships & Community and Good Health.

## **2) What course will I be on?**

We have seven different courses and you will be assessed to ensure you are on the most appropriate course

- 1) Foundation Skills for Life
- 2) Skills for Work and Living
- 3) WorkStart - Traineeship
- 4) WorkStart - Supported Internship/Project Search
- 5) WorkStart - Pathway to Employment
- 6) WorkStart – Preparation for Employment
- 7) WorkStart – Short Courses

## **3) How do I get a place at Orchard Hill College?**

Come along to one of our Open Events and you can meet the teams, have a look at the College facilities and ask any questions you may have.

Once you have visited one of the College centres and you decide that you're interested in joining us then please complete an Expression of Interest form. The expression of interest form is available to download on our website [www.orchardhill.ac.uk](http://www.orchardhill.ac.uk) or call on 0345 402 0453 and our admissions team will send you a form in the post.

Once we have received your completed form, you may be invited for an assessment and we will advise you if we can offer you a place.

If you are applying for the Foundation Skills for Life programme you may be invited to a Transition Programme to support your transition into College.

## **3) How is the decision made about how much support I will receive?**

The assessments team will make an appointment to come and assess you either in your home, at school or in College. By meeting you we will learn about the extra help you will need to support your learning.

We will also ask for copies of reports from people who know you including teachers, social workers, specialist careers advisers and therapists. We can then see what

support you have received whilst at school and how we can best support you at College.

All of this information is then put into a report and a group of college staff (the Admissions Panel), look at the information and decide if we can meet your needs at Orchard Hill College. The report is then sent to the Local Authority to see if they can support the funding that you will need to attend the College.

#### **4) How will the College staff support me?**

Specialist Therapists at Orchard Hill College undertake clinical assessments in the form of both formal and informal assessments in order to establish the level of input required. Therapists provide therapy using a multi-layered approach in order to support the students in both independence and education. These approaches can be direct 1:1 sessions or group sessions. Programmes are developed by therapists and delivered by trained members of the curriculum team. Programmes are embedded into the student's day at College and are reviewed by therapists as required. Therapists also assess and review specialist equipment.

Therapists work closely with the teaching team and liaise with homes, parents and carers as well as other health professionals. The type of therapy offered is based on the student's clinical need and the influence it will have on the student's learning, independence and quality of life. The model of universal, targeted and specialist levels is used. Delivery of therapeutic interventions is not necessarily specific to weekly hours but over a period of time to ensure goals are supported/achieved. This may be in the form of staff training/upskilling, group or 1:1 sessions.

Within Orchard Hill College we offer:

Occupational Therapists, Speech and language therapists, Physiotherapists, Creative Arts Therapists, Hydrotherapy and nurses.

**Occupational Therapists** support students to maximise their level of participation and increase their independence in learning activities at College.

**Speech and language therapists** work with curriculum staff to embed a total communication approach across the College. SALT's provide bespoke communication and dysphagia support for individual learners as appropriate.

**Physiotherapists** support students with their manual handling, postural management and functional independence.

**Music therapists** work with students individually and in groups. Music therapists help people express their feelings such as being worried, anxious, angry or upset. Difficult feelings are explored in sessions in a safe and private place.

**Hydrotherapy** is a therapy program utilising the properties of water, to maximise learner's level of function whether physical, physiological or psychological. The therapy occurs in a warm hydrotherapy pool.

**Aquatic Therapy** is a specific physiotherapy (PT) intervention not a recreational activity/swimming lesson.

From the reports we have received from your previous school, from getting to know you during the initial assessment and from understanding you as a result of the longer baseline assessment during your first term, we will identify the support we believe you will need to be successful and achieve your goals.

This support will cover individual support in learning sessions, the specialist help you might need and any therapeutic help required for your physical wellbeing (physiotherapy), or to look after yourself (occupational therapy), or for communication (speech & language therapy).

We will also look at any support you require to help you cope in social situations or with behaviour in general. The support we identify will also cover times such as breaks and lunchtimes.

## **5) Will I have access to any digital support?**

The College has a dedicated Digital Team that enables students to access innovative and engaging digital resources and gain accredited qualifications. The team delivers digital workshops across all College centres to introduce students to the latest technology in a fun and informative way. These workshops not only strengthen students' communication and independence skills, they offer them the opportunity to be at the forefront of the technological revolution, have fun and be part of youth culture. In partnership with our students we continue to change the way technology and education interact.

## **6) Where can I study?**

Following an assessment by the team, students aged 16+ can study at one of our eight College centres across London and Surrey. Each centre is different but all have strong links with the community.

**VPC** accommodates up to 60 students. The centre has strong links with the community and students at this centre regularly access two working allotments.

**Beaconsfield** is located within a quiet residential setting and is in walking distance of the town centre. The centre can accommodate up to 55 students.

**Lomond House** is situated just off Camberwell Green and is next to the library and in the heart of the town centre with access to many facilities including Camberwell leisure centre. Lomond House can accommodate up to 50 students.

**Vocational Centre** is co-located with Nightingale Community Academy and has access to vocational facilities including the farm and allotment, industry kitchen, mechanical workshop and hairdressing salon. The centre accommodates up to 15 students.

**Park View Centre** accommodates up to 75 students. The centre has a range of vocational facilities on site. The centre is near Uxbridge town centre.

**Camberwell Road** is situated in Camberwell Green close to the town centre with access to many local facilities. The centre can accommodate up to 15 students.

**Robin Hood Centre** is used as a base for our WorkStart and Apprenticeship programmes, as well as our Diploma In Education and Training. It can accommodate up to 30 students at any one time.

**Garratt House** is located in Beddington with access to many local businesses and community groups. The centre can accommodate up to 9 students.

## **5) How will you assess and monitor my progress?**

We have a number of ways in which we formally and informally review student progress throughout the year. This includes:

- Half termly assessments (academic, personal and social development)
- The annual review of the Education, Health & Care Plan
- Termly Core skills assessments and tracking
- Termly outcome/study programmes assessments and tracking
- Weekly Case study, good news stories and learner challenge evidence
- Weekly photographic, video and e-learning evidence on an e-portfolio

Staff will work with you to monitor your progress and to discuss and set new targets to make sure that the programme of learning and support you are following is right for

you. Staff will continuously check that you are continuing to make progress towards achieving your planned outcomes.

### **6) How will you prepare and support me to join the College?**

If you are offered a place we will send you a confirmation letter and you can decide if you would like to accept the placement. Once you accept we work with your local authority to get the right support needed for you to attend Orchard Hill College. In the summer term you may be invited to a transition course, this will take place in the centre you will be joining and will last for around 6 weeks. You will have an opportunity to meet with your peers and your new teacher. Throughout this process we will be in contact regularly and will support you through this journey

### **7) How will you prepare and support me for when I leave College?**

Throughout your programme, we are focused on what you want to do when you leave College. We work with you, your family and the professionals working with you (such as social workers, transition managers and specialist careers advisers) to ensure your needs are met.

In particular, Annual Reviews are a very important part of this process. During your final year you will have two reviews. At the review, everyone comes together to share information about you and your progress that you have made. Every effort is made to ensure that students leaving Orchard Hill College will have appropriate provision in place to move onto to support their independence and future aspirations such as volunteering, social enterprise, or further part time training alongside a programme of daily activities.

### **8) What expertise and training do staff have?**

Our highly experienced and qualified staff includes specialist teachers, learning support assistants, nurses, job coaches and therapists.

The College recognises that its staff and community affiliates are fundamental to student's success.

Staff development includes any activity which contributes to the enhancement of their knowledge, skills or working practices e.g. courses, development programmes, vocational training, mandatory staff development activities, attendance at meetings and conferences, secondments, development of educational materials, curriculum enhancement and active involvement in professional bodies.

The College pays due regard to the College's commitment to equality of opportunity as set out in relevant policies. There will be equality of access to staff development opportunities for all college staff.

10 working days per annum are set aside for staff involvement in learning and development activities.

We provide mandatory virtual and taught training packages:

- Health and Safety
- Fire Safety
- Understanding Learning Disabilities
- Understanding Autism
- Safeguarding
- Mental Capacity
- Freedom of Information
- Equality and Diversity

In addition OHC offers staff:

- CPD modules
- Teacher training
- Research and development opportunities
- Specialist Apprenticeships and Learning Support Assistant qualifications
- Leadership qualifications
- Coaching opportunities

## **9) Who can I contact for further information?**

Please get in touch if you have any questions which we haven't answered, and we'll do our best to help. You can contact us for more information:

Website: [www.orchardhill.ac.uk](http://www.orchardhill.ac.uk)

Telephone: 0345 402 0453

Email: [enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk)

