

SEN Information Report for Dereham Sixth Form College 2018-19

Contributing to the Norfolk Local Offer for Learners with SEN

Introduction

At Dereham Sixth Form College (DSFC) we are committed to an inclusive post-16 learning environment. We encourage students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) to come and study with us. This Local Offer has been produced in conjunction with parents/carers, students, governors and school staff, as part of the requirement to review and publish the college offer to SEN students. Our funding for SEN comes from Norfolk County Council. Should you have any questions regarding this SEN Information Report, please do not hesitate to contact:

SENCO: Ms P O'Grady (pogrady@ng6.unity-ed.uk)

Directors of Dereham Sixth Form College: Mr J Atkin (jatin@ng6.unity-ed.uk) and Mr D Brook (dbrook@ng6.unity-ed.uk)

If you would like more general information regarding SEN in Norfolk schools, please look at the Frequently Asked Questions on the website www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEN

Our approach to teaching learners with SEN

At Dereham Sixth Form College we want every student to participate and achieve in learning to their full potential and we are committed to the inclusive culture we have established. Our aim is always to meet the needs of all of the members of our college community. Our commitment to SEN learners is part of this whole school approach to teaching and learning.

How we identify SEN

In the Code of Practice, SEN is defined as follows:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- a) Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age: or
- b) Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions”

Students with SEN are not those who have fallen behind academically, but rather students with educational needs which are in addition to or different from the already differentiated national curriculum.

Assessments we use

At Dereham Sixth Form College we use the Wide Range Ability Test (WRAT), Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT) and Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP). These are psychometric tests to check levels of literacy, maths, verbal and spatial intelligence and processing speeds. They can be used as evidence for the exam boards as an indication of a special educational need. However, they are not diagnostic tools.

What is an Education Health and Care Plan?

Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are replacing Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments over the next few academic years. They have been phased in from 1 September 2014 as Statements are converted to EHCPs. Under the new guidelines, these plans will start from birth and continue until the student concerned is 25 years old. There will now only be one school-based category for SEN. For further information regarding Education, Health and Care Plans, please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEN

Who helps us?

The college employs a 'Life Coach', Martin Woods, who sees students on a one-to-one basis to help with any particular problems they may be having. Often students self-refer to a member of staff if they are struggling with a personal issue and one avenue they can consider is seeing Martin Woods. His approach is flexible and he sees students as much or as little as they both feel is required.

The college also employs a qualified counsellor, Sonya Dunsdon, who is available to see students who may benefit from counselling. Again, her approach is flexible and centred on the needs of the students who have sessions with her. Both Martin and Sonya are contactable via the College Office either in person or via office@derehamsixthform.norfolk.sch.uk

What we do to support learners with SEN

Teachers for all subjects are required to differentiate the curriculum to ensure access for all students in their classes. As such, the teaching staff at the college are responsible for meeting individual students' learning needs. Students are monitored throughout the academic year by teachers, tutors and support staff both in terms of their academic achievements and their wellbeing.

In addition to the class teacher, SEN students are supported by the Head of SEN and any other external agencies where appropriate. This support is determined on a needs basis and, due to the size of the college, we are able to regularly assess and evaluate student need and provision offered in order to increase or decrease levels of support as and when required. In the past year we have helped students with hearing impairments, physical disabilities and those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder by making individualised learning plans. These plans include in-class support, assistance with note-taking and study sessions to make sure homework is up to date. We are committed to continual professional development for all staff.

Most students with SEND are identified prior to the transition from high school to college in order that the necessary preparations for their arrival can be undertaken. This identification is a collaborative process and is achieved with the aid of the high schools from which the students will be leaving. When students fill in their application forms to the sixth form there is also a dedicated section on medical information and special educational needs.

Decisions by the college regarding the provision offered to students with SEND are made in consultation with the students, their teachers and parents, and any relevant outside agencies. Due to the relatively small nature of Dereham Sixth Form College, individual support for students is offered flexibly and can be altered according to individual student need. One of the main aims we have for our students with SEND is to foster an increased independence before the students leave college and this is always kept in mind when we are deciding how best to assist our students.

At Dereham Sixth Form College there is a robust tutor system in which students meet their tutor on and one-to-one basis as often as is required but at least once every half term. Students identified

with SEND needs are seen by their tutors but are also closely monitored by the SEND department in terms of wellbeing and, again, are signposted to any extra support as required. During the college year we invite guest speakers on a variety of topics and have a full day programme surrounding issues of Health and Wellbeing in which many outside agencies and charities come to the college to speak directly to students about issues that directly affect them.

We keep parents informed regarding their child's progress through a number of avenues. We have progress reviews which are issued during the autumn, winter and spring terms which give a strong indication to parents of, not just academic attainment, but also folder organisation, motivation and commitment, and deadlines. The students undertake formal internal December examinations at the end of their first full term at the college which give a good indication as to how students are coping with sixth form expectations. They also receive comprehensive end of year reports at the end of the summer term.

Some parents of students with SEND will follow these standard routes to gain information regarding their child's progress at college. Others may want greater contact from the college and this is offered on a needs basis. For example, staff are more than happy to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress or send regular emails home to keep parents 'in the loop' with what their child is doing day-to-day whilst they are at college.

Accessibility

The college has been made fully accessible for all students. This has included the installation of ramps and automatic doors into buildings, as well as a lift up to the library. The college encourages working alongside outside agencies to provide equipment/advice for our SEN students and currently works closely with Norfolk County Council's Sensory Support Centre and Children's Services.

Trips are made fully accessible for students with SEND. Upcoming trips include residential visits to Aberystwyth and New York and day trips to the Supreme Court and the Houses of Parliament. If you have any questions regarding trips please contact Mrs Iwanczyk on siwanczyk@ng6.unit-ed.uk.

There are numerous extra-curricular activities offered by the college and outside agencies, including sporting activities, the School council, a Debating Club, and school magazine. Information regarding these opportunities is on the college notice board and each opportunity is open to all who wish to participate.

Preparation for life after college

Our main ambition for SEN students at Dereham Sixth Form College is to foster an increased independence to ensure students are prepared for adult life. We are committed to supporting our SEN students through the transition to whatever they choose to do after leaving the college, and work closely with parents and any outside agencies who may be involved with this transition process.

Have your say

Parents are encouraged to contact the college via email office@derehamsixthform.norfolk.sch.uk, telephone 01362 696884 or post Crown Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AG. We would appreciate any feedback on our SEN Information Report to help us continually improve and review our annual provision.

Useful emails

SEN information at DSFC – pogradey@ng6-unit.ed.uk

Office at DSFC – office@derehamsixthform.norfolk.sch.uk

Directors of DSFC – Mr J Atkin (jatkin@ng6.unity-ed.uk) and Mr D Brook (dbrook@ng6.unity-ed.uk)

Useful links

Norfolk County Council SEN – www.norfolk.gov.uk/SEN

SEN Jargon Buster -

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Childrens_services/Special_educational_needs_\(SEN\)/About_special_educational_needs/Useful_explanations/NCC103245](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Childrens_services/Special_educational_needs_(SEN)/About_special_educational_needs/Useful_explanations/NCC103245)