Richard Challoner School

Annual Report

The Xavier Centre

A specialist resourced provision for students with Moderate Learning Needs

Post 16 – 2016-2018
Since opening the provision in September 2016, it has been an extremely busy two years for us in the Xavier Centre. We have welcomed students across the Kingston and Richmond Boroughs and have focused on increasing our presence in the community and collaborated with many neighbouring schools. We have also worked with outside agencies to provide the required support to meet the individual needs of the students according to their EHCP.

In the first year, we welcomed three students with Miss Morley as the Centre Manager and Mr Gregory as an additional teacher. By the second year, we expanded the team by introducing two members of staff to the team: Mr Gallagher, the teacher for Maths and English and Miss Norton, a Senior Teaching Assistant. A range of staff within the school work with the students to offer a range of subjects in the curriculum to meet their physical, social and emotional needs. Being located at the heart of a mainstream school such as Richard Challoner, we have been fortunate to provide students with the opportunities to develop their skills to adapt to a busier environment. This helps replicate a college environment so students gain confidence navigating their way around various locations and working with a wider range of people. Additionally, a number of Sixth Form students regularly volunteer their services to support 1:1 with either the students or group activities, both on and off site, enhances the facilities we provide. This support is invaluable, age appropriate and the students appreciate this unique level of support.

The vision we have here is to provide a stepping-stone from school and beyond whether that is a Mainstream College environment, or a Supported Work placement. The bespoke programme is designed over a two-year period, however for one student; we have extended this to a third year. In the first year, students will be based at the Centre full time. By the second year, it is important for students to spend a minimum of one day offsite, whether that is at a local college or a work based placement.

Often parents’ main anxieties are based on the idea that students may no longer receive taxis as a service to school beyond the age of 16. Here at the Xavier Centre, all the students receive a supported travel training programme and to date all students have successfully achieved this and now commute to and from school independently. Two students have also received recognition by the Mayor of Kingston for their participation in the ‘Balance’ programme.

We continue to think closely about the opportunities for timetabled access for pupils as part of the provision. Although our aim is that pupils are accessing as close to 100% of a mainstream curriculum as possible, we are realising that alternative courses and adjustments to our usual offer need to be made, particularly for older pupils. Although pupils are making good or at the very least, adequate progress, we want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for holistic and social development as well as academic progress. Working with the community, we have developed solid relationships with the local police, fire and emergency services as well as local businesses and volunteers such as the Rotary Club. We attend St Mary’s University and the Oval Cricket ground on Disability activity days and attend Career days at the Excel Centre in Central London as well as Twickenham.
The Rotary Club members kindly orchestrate a mock interview off site at an unfamiliar venue, whereby students are encouraged to consider independence skills, dressing appropriately and taking part in a chosen job role. Each interview is filmed and then used by the therapists to help address areas for development.

Miss Morley and the team are very keen to give students every opportunity to develop their skills in a realistic and practical manner. One example of this is in BTEC Workskills. For two years, students have generated ideas, pitched the idea for a start-up loan to the Finance department and worked as a team to carry out a weekly tuck shop and Pizza stall.

Students went to Costco to purchase stock items for their tuck shop.

The students running a weekly tuck shop as part of their BTEC Workskills Enterprise Unit.

Miss Morley has also developed a strong relationship with the neighbouring school, St Philip’s. Every week, students from there travel to Richard Challoner and receive a bespoke Art lesson, which is run by Mrs Bartkiewicz. In exchange, we travel to St Philip’s to receive sessions on ‘Upcycling’ and Design and Technology. We have also invited both schools to take part in a team-building day, a SEND Post 16 Sports day as well as an end of year celebration. Miss Morley has also visited other schools such as Clarendon, Cheam PEP and Blossom House to do some Outreach work.

The Centre itself welcomes all faiths, however we ask all parents and students to respect that we are located in the heart of a Catholic based school. We aim to provide the students with a community spirit so take part in weekly assemblies, key events (Remembrance Day, Easter and Christmas) as well as the annual Challoner Day Celebration, which the students have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of.
Every term the students organise a social event. This is to develop their social skills, friendships as well as independence. For the past two years, the students have enjoyed playing Crazy Golf, the Pottery Café, Nando’s, Pizza Express, 6th Form events as well as Christmas parties at the Toby Carvery, to name a few.
Timetable and Curriculum

Students in the Centre have continued to enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that is physical, social and mentally challenging according to their abilities. The entry criteria for each student is that they are in possession of an EHCP and are working between Entry 2 and Level 1 in Maths and English. For some, developing their independence in other key areas such as Life Skills and more vocational subject areas is more prevalent. Additional time in exams is granted to each student in exams and all benefit from the smaller class sizes and teacher/pupil ratio support. Being in a mainstream environment, students enjoy the opportunity to help them adapt to a busier environment in preparation for a college setting.

Mr Gallagher and Miss Morley deliver the core subjects, Maths and English and Mr Gregory delivers the ICT qualification at Entry 3 to Level 1. BTEC Workskills is a further qualification students can gain as well as their BTEC Home Cooking skills certificate at either Level one or two. All other subjects offer a holistic and practical approach to encourage students’ self-confidence, independence as well as inspiring them for areas to pursue in the future.

Miss Norton has been leading on our Garden Project with students. Each student has an individual bed to grow fruit, plants and vegetables. We also take part in three Educational activity days at Wisley Gardens to gain invaluable life skills in nurturing, caring for and maintaining an outdoor environment.

We were fortunate to receive a generous donation from Waitrose of £300 to help transform our garden into a vibrant and calm area.

Neighbouring school Partnerships

For two years, we have participated in the Oval Cricket Disabilities Day in May. We participate in a range of activities run by volunteers. We have also enjoyed taking part in the St Mary’s SEND programme every January, which involves working with other schools in the Borough, led by the Universities’ PGCE students for three consecutive weeks.
St Philips exchange Programme

In 2017, we set up a joint collaboration with St Philip’s School, whereby we attend their school every Tuesday and join one of their classes. This is either ‘Upcycling’ or ‘Design and Technology’. In exchange, their year 11 students travel to Richard Challoner School and enjoy a bespoke Art class run by Mrs Bartkiewicz every Thursday. This joint working has been very successful and the students have gained a lot from the experience.

This year, we also put together our first SEND Sport day for Post 16 students. We invited neighbouring schools to compete in lots of activities and to represent themselves and their provision. Medals were awarded and the school with the overall highest points won the Shield, which was presented on the day. The vision was to provide a community event for students of this age and to enjoy a healthy competitive sport.

Pupils on Roll 2016-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Number of places available</th>
<th>Numbers on roll/allocated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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Pupils on Roll 2017-2018

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*An additional Year 10 student was on roll
Staffing and Facilities

The unit has been fully staffed for the academic year 2017/18 with a Centre Manager (1.0 FTE) and a Senior Teaching Assistant totalling 1.0FTE, with one allocated teaching staff from Transition Team. Various other staff have been linked to the Centre on a one or two lesson per week basis. Dedicated support assistants and additional support has also been used from staff attached to our Learning Support Department to support break and lunch duties.

The Xavier Team

Miss Morley Xavier Centre Manager

Miss Morley joined the School in 2016 to help set up the Xavier Centre and develop its reputation in the area, as a reputable provision for students with Moderate Learning Needs. Miss Morley’s background in teaching is specifically in Post 16 and SEN and previous roles have included Blossom House (Speech and Language) and Barnardo’s/Meadows School (Emotional and Behavioural needs). Miss Morley was very pleased to join the school and work with staff, students and parents alike, with the focus to prepare students for their next stage in life.

Miss Norton Senior Teaching Assistant/Tutor

Miss Norton has transitioned from the Learning Support department to the Xavier Centre full time. With 12 years’ experience, she is a great addition to the team, and has taken on the role as a Tutor, to the year 13 students. Miss Norton has previous experience working with the Occupation Health Therapist as well as being the acting Age Phase Coordinator.

Mr Gallagher - Head of Y7 Transition/ Teacher

Mr Gallagher joined the school in 2017. As an ex-pupil and ex-employee as a Teaching Assistant, Mr Gallagher brings experience now as a Teacher from a Primary background and has also joined the Year 7 transition department. Mr Gallagher’s main role in the Centre is to deliver core subjects such as Maths and English (Functional Skills Entry Level).

Therapists

Based on each student’s EHCP, we buy in services via a range of Professionals to meet their needs accordingly. They are not part of the Centre but provide their expertise and work closely with the staff team.

Julie Ball, Speech and Language Therapist from Your Healthcare attends the centre weekly. She works 1:1 with students supporting a range of needs as well as running a ‘Social Thinking’ group to develop their speaking and listening skills and communication, both verbal and non-verbal.

Sarah Freeman, Sexual Health Outreach worker from Kingston’s Wolverton Centre, works very closely with the students to develop their awareness about general health, relationships and sexual health matters. Sarah works 1:1, 2:1 and runs workshop groups. In June, we were invited to visit her clinic based at Kingston hospital and the students enjoyed learning about the facility and exploring the laboratories.

We have continued to value the support and expertise of the Educational Psychology Service by arranging regular consultation space for staff attached to the provision. This has been particularly helpful for our staff, for any strategic/systemic planning and to oversee therapy-informed sessions, which our Educational Support Professional has delivered.

Sandra Newbery, Senior Paediatric Occupational Therapist (OT), will join the team in September 2018 as a weekly therapist to meet the needs of specific students according to their EHCP outcomes.
Other staff

Being located in the heart of the school, we have the advantage that we can utilise subject specific teachers to deliver a range of lessons to inspire the students on what they perhaps would like to pursue in the future. Mr Cannon delivered Music this year, Mr Mander taught PE as well as Travel Training sessions and Miss Dawson from the Newman Centre allowed the students to come in and help care for the resident animals onsite. Mrs Bartkiewicz took on the role of delivering Art and involved the students in the main school exhibition, which was fantastic and with each student in possession of an IPad, Mr Gregory supported them to familiarise themselves with this new technology.

Each year, staff will rotate depending on their availability. However, we will continue to strive to offer the Xavier Centre students a range of subjects and staff members here at Challoner offer their support in many varied ways throughout the year to include the students within the main school activities, which is hugely appreciated by the Xavier Centre.

We have already initiated conversations with the Local Authority about staffing levels and funding for the next academic year to reflect increasing numbers. We hope to be able to extend the provision into the existing Maintenance area adjoining the department once numbers increase. As the Centre is a new facility, we have made no changes this academic year cosmetically or structurally aside from installing permanent interactive whiteboard facilities. We have, however, focused on promoting the Centre by designing a sign for the entrance to the school, a marketing banner to use at exhibitions and updated the main school website as well as Prospectus.

Following a Parent forum, we gathered useful feedback, one being the confusion of the original name of ‘St Francis Xavier Centre. As the Provision welcomes all faiths, we decided to rebrand the Centre to just ‘The Xavier Centre’.

Professional development

We do, however, continue to expand our specialised resources to meet the needs of the students across the curriculum. We ensure that we have an ongoing commitment to continuing professional development. Over the past year, opportunities for staff development have included:

- Epilepsy training
- Specific morning and Inset sessions for all teaching staff ‘Community Learning’
- Outreach work with staff at other schools (St Philip’s, Clarendon School, Blossom House)
- Weekly ‘15 minute forum’ sessions for support and teaching staff run in-house to focus on different topics
- Training opportunities that are relevant to individual staff as identified through performance management
Over the next academic year, we will see the provision grow with the aim to full capacity, which is 16 students—eight in Year 12 and eight in Year 13. We are looking forward to shaping our provision to meet the changing needs of students coming through from neighbouring schools in the Kingston and Richmond borough, as well as considering any out of borough placements who may show an interest.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area for Development</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>To develop a relationship with the Occupational Therapist who will attend the Centre regularly.</td>
<td>To be reviewed Spring 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>To assess students’ ability using various examining boards across ICT, English and Maths to determine which style of questioning suits the language and format of the students’ needs. To introduce Drama and Performing Arts.</td>
<td>To be up and running by January 2019. To be up and running by October 2018.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Continue to explore staff training opportunities and use gap analysis to identify potential areas to provide for students with Moderate Learning Needs.</td>
<td>Delivery of a range of internal and external training opportunities.</td>
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The two-year programme will accommodate students full time in the first year and offer students in their second year, a placement one day per week to experience a day at College or a day on a workplace environment. We hope to develop the Xavier Centre in the following ways over the next academic year:
Orchard Hill School- SEN Post 16 Sports Day

‘Thank you for inviting us. Our students really enjoyed it and it was a very positive event for all involved. It will be a very positive and fun way to get all of our students from the local area together!’

Parent

‘Thanks for organising the coffee morning, it was good to speak to other parents and yourself in a relaxed setting. There was lots of information to be gained’.

Kirsty Blensop
(Chessington Community College)

‘Thanks to the leaders from CCC and also from The Xavier Centre at Richard Challoner School who came along and helped out and were a credit to their school’.

Student

I think this is an excellent school and I’m really enjoying my time here.’

Parent

‘It was obvious that the students mean a great deal to you and I know my son is a much richer and more rounded character as a result. We have seen him grow in confidence in a relatively short space of time and would never have imagined he would be travelling on his own (albeit rehearsed) into London. A huge “thank you” to you both and the other staff members who have made this an enjoyable journey for Ewan and his parents. Miss Morley, a special “thanks” to you for “going the extra mile”. Your understanding, when things have been difficult at home, is greatly appreciated.’