



# Richard Challoner School

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2019/20

## Xavier Centre Annual Report

What have we provided this year?

The 2019/20 year has been quite unlike any other, having only spent just over half of it in the classroom, but we still have plenty of news to share. We have had another significant growth in numbers in the year 2019/20 and have moved from having eight students to 12. Mrs Martin continues to lead the department, supported by Ms Dainton. This year, we welcomed Miss Harvey to the team. She has been working as part of her gap year before starting university in September, and we will miss her excellent contribution to the team as we have to say goodbye to her at the end of the summer term! Mr King has joined us to deliver maths lessons, and Mr Mundy to teach English. We have been very lucky to have been joined by some LSAs from the Learning Support team to help out during lessons and break times. A number of staff in the school work with the students to offer a range of subjects in the curriculum to meet students' cognitive, 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, supporting either in the classroom or to providing a weekly performing arts lesson.

The vision we have here is to provide a stepping-stone from school to beyond, whether that is a mainstream or specialist college environment, or a supported work placement. The programme is designed over a two-year period; however, some students choose to stay for a third year. In the first and second year, students will generally be based at the centre full time. If they choose to stay for a third year, they are encouraged to spend one day offsite, whether that is at a local college or a work-based placement. This year, we have had one student doing a regular Wednesday work

placement at Kingston Community Furniture, which he loved. Plans for others to take part in work experience were curtailed by Covid-19.

The curriculum has continued to evolve over the four years. As well as providing academic opportunities, at the Xavier Centre, we ensure that students are given the chance to develop their social, emotional, creative, life and work skills. These range from weekly timetabled art, cooking, life skills and science lessons to regular trips and visits.

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. Each year, students have generated ideas and worked as a team to carry out an enterprise activity. This year, they set up a tuck shop, with the idea of raising money for the residential trip to Blackland Farm. Unfortunately, after planning the enterprise and purchasing items for a tuck shop, students only had the opportunity to do one sale before school was closed down.

Students benefit from a wide range of wide range of trips and visits. Although we missed some of our favourites this year, including the residential trip to Blackland Farm, we still managed to have lots of excellent experiences off site. We attend St Mary's university for three sessions with their trainee teachers. In the past, these have been mainly PE based. This year, they invited other subject trainees to deliver short sessions. Not only were these enjoyable and engaging to the students, but they also provided valuable experience to the trainee teachers on teaching children and young people with additional needs. A highlight of the year has been a termly visit to Wisley Gardens to take part in a morning workshop and spend the afternoon exploring and enjoying the grounds. We managed to squeeze in the second visit of the year shortly before lockdown. We had one event that ran out of school hours this year, a Christmas meal at Toby Carvery. Students wanted to invite so many people that we took over a significant portion of the restaurant! They loved the experience of eating and socialising with staff and peers outside the school. Our second evening activity, the Summer BBQ, had to be postponed. Hopefully, we will be able to run this in September and invite the leavers back for a proper send off.

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 and Christmas) as well as the annual Challoner Day Celebration, which the students have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of.

## Current Organisation

### Timetable and Curriculum

Students in the centre have continued to enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that is physically, socially and cognitively 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 Level 1 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 a more appropriate focus than their academic skills. Additional time in exams is granted to students when necessary and all benefit from the small class sizes and high staff/student 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 King, Mr Mundy and Ms Dainton deliver the core subjects of maths and English and Ms Dainton delivers ICT. All students also take a course in BTEC Workskills. Luckily, most final year students have completed enough units to be able to gain a qualification and those who haven't will be getting unit accreditation for the work they've done in this subject. Students take part in a weekly cooking session. The plan was to accredit this through Jamie's Home Cooking Skills program. Due to the circumstances of the year, leavers will not gain this qualification, but it will be up and running for next year. 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.

Mrs Martin has been leading on our garden project with students. We have individual raised beds to grow fruit, flowers and vegetables.

### St Philip's Exchange Programme

The centre has maintained the strong relationship with St Philip's School in Chessington, which began in 2017. Every week, we travel to St Philip's to receive a lesson, which this year has included drama and textiles. In return, St Philip's students come to Richard Challoner School and take part in an art lesson run by Mrs Bartkiweicz.

### Pupils on Roll

The Xavier Centre has eight places available per year, over two years. The table below shows the number of pupils on roll over the four-year history and accepted places for the coming year.

|         | Year<br>12 | Year<br>13 | Year<br>14 |
|---------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2016-17 | 3          | -          | -          |
| 2017-18 | 3          | 3          | -          |
| 2018-19 | 4          | 3          | 1          |
| 2019-20 | 5          | 4          | 3          |
| 2020-21 | 5-6        | 4-5        | 3          |

### Staffing and Facilities

The centre has a centre manager (0.8 FTE) and a teacher (approx. 0.7 FTE, also working 0.3 FTE with The Newman Centre). We also have maths and English teachers coming in from the learning support / transition team. Various other teaching staff have been linked to the centre on a one or two lesson per week basis. We have one full time LSA and have had additional support from the learning support department to assist in lessons and to cover break and lunch times.

### The Xavier Team

#### **Mrs Martin** Centre Manager/Senior Teaching Assistant/Tutor

Mrs Martin has transitioned from the Learning Support department to the Xavier Centre full time and is now a year 13 tutor. Previously to this, she worked in Learning Support for 12 years supporting students 1:1 in and outside of lessons, delivering physiotherapy programs, mentoring, conducting college visits and running social skills across the school. She was also an acting Age-Phase Coordinator. She has experience of working with children and young people with ASC, ADHD and physical

disabilities. At the beginning of the spring term 2019, Mrs Martin took over as Xavier Centre manager and now coordinates the day-to-day running of the centre.

#### **Ms Dainton** Teacher/Tutor

Ms Dainton is a qualified teacher with many years' experience of working with children and young people with additional needs. She spent six years at St Philip's school, working with post-16 students with MLD and also has experience of teaching students on the autism spectrum, with language and communication conditions, with hearing impairments and physical disabilities. Ms Dainton primarily works in the Xavier Centre, but also spends some lessons in the Newman Centre, supporting Richard Challoner students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health conditions. Ms Dainton completed her PGCert NASENCO qualification this year.

#### **Miss Harvey** – Learning Support Assistant

Miss Harvey has been working in the school since September 2019. She began splitting her time between The Xavier Centre and food tech, but since Christmas, she has been working in Xavier full time as the designated TA, primarily assisting within the classroom alongside the teachers. This has inspired her to move onto further studies in the new academic year, surrounding psychology and education.

#### **Mr King** – Maths Teacher

Mr King joined Richard Challoner in 2018 as a trainee Maths teacher. In 2019, he moved into Learning Support Department, working throughout the school with pupils with special educational needs. He joined the Xavier Centre as a maths teacher at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, teaching Functional Skills Entry Level Maths. He is currently training to be a psychotherapist.

#### **Mr Mundy** – English Teacher

Mr Mundy joined the school in 2018. He is an ex-pupil, with previous experience as a teaching assistant and primary school teacher. Mr Mundy's main role in the centre is to teach English (Functional Skills Entry Level). As well as his work in Xavier, Mr Mundy teaches Year 7 transition subjects and KS4 GCSE English.

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

**Julie Ball**, Speech and Language Therapist from Your Healthcare attends the centre weekly. Where appropriate, she works 1:1 with students supporting a range of needs as well as running a 'Social Thinking' group for the whole department to develop their speaking and listening skills and communication, both verbal and non-verbal.

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) runs a weekly group session working on the students' fine and gross motor skills. She also does classroom observations to provide suggestions on how best to support our students.

#### Other staff

Being located in the heart of the school means that we have the advantage of being able to utilise subject specific teachers to deliver a range of lessons. This year, we have been lucky enough to have the expertise of Mrs Penney delivering science, food skills with Mr Steel, PE with Mr Taylor and art with Mrs Coll. Students also took part in a performing arts lesson lead by three sixth formers, which they loved.

Each year, staff will rotate depending on their availability and the needs of the students. However, we will continue to strive to offer the Xavier Centre students a range of subjects and access to different staff members. We are hugely thankful to the staff for working with the Xavier students, as we know how much it enriches their experience of the school and helps them to feel part of the whole school community.

#### Professional development

We ensure that we have an ongoing commitment to continuing professional development. Over the past year, opportunities for staff development have included:

- Zones of Regulation
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Star Analysis (settings, triggers, actions, results)
- Ms Dainton has completed her PG Cert. NASENCO qualification.

#### Last Year's Development Areas

| Area of Development | Description   | Performance Indicator  | Update  |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Staffing            | To employ an additional learning support assistant to meet the needs of a growing unit.         | Permanent member of staff to be in place within the first term of 2019-20.   | <b>Achieved:</b> Miss Harvey joined us and became a valuable member of the team.  |
| Curriculum          | To add a science lesson to the timetable.<br>Introduce accreditation to the food skills lesson. | Science lesson in place for 2019-20.<br>Students to be working towards Jamie's Home Cooking Skills accreditation.                            | <b>Achieved:</b> Science was added to the timetable.<br><b>Partially Achieved:</b> Students began working towards the qualification, but did not complete it. |
| Communication       | To improve communication about student's needs with all staff in the school.                    | Communication postcards to be written with snapshot of each student and tips for working with them.<br>Available on the LS Hub to all staff. | <b>Achieved:</b> Written and available to all on the LS Hub within the autumn term.   |

## Future Planning

Over the next academic year, we will see the provision continue to grow with the aim of full capacity, which is 16 students. 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.

We hope to develop the Xavier Centre in the following ways over the next academic year:

| Area of Development | Description  | Performance Indicator  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Building / Space    | Increase the physical area of the centre to meet the needs of the increasing numbers joining the department.             | A new classroom, kitchenette and break out space within The Xavier Centre  |
| Curriculum          | Carried over from last year:<br>Introduce accreditation to the food skills lesson.<br>Introduce Arts Award Qualification | Students achieve Jamie's Home Cooking Skills accreditation.<br>Students achieve Arts Award qualification.                    |
| Training            | Staff will take part in continuing professional development to better be able to support the students in Xavier Centre.  | Staff to attend the following courses:<br>Down Syndrome: Puberty, Adolescence & Supporting Behaviour<br>Level 2 Safeguarding |



