Sharing Innovative Approaches to Implementing 16 – 19 Study Programmes

Hackney Community College
“Working with schools and partners has enabled the College to develop a personalised Study Programme making the most of local opportunities.”

Lois Fowler - Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality

About the College

Hackney Community College (HCC) is a large general further education college in the London Borough of Hackney. Its main site is in Shoreditch, adjacent to the City of London. The college works in over 40 community and employer venues in the borough.

The college offers a range of courses from entry to post-graduate level, enrolling 9,000 students per year, and aged 14-60+, of whom approximately 1,400 16-18s, including 48 young people with high and complex support needs. Approximately 121% of HCC’s students disclose a disability or an additional support requirement. Around 50% of students are of black and minority ethnic heritage. For a high proportion, English is their second language. Students are mainly from Hackney and adjacent boroughs.

Hackney is one of the most economically and socially deprived in the country, with all 19 of its wards in the poorest 20% nationally. The Borough has a population of 200,000, with year on year increases of around 3%. There are high rates of worklessness. Its residents are less well qualified than the London average, with over 16% of those of working age having no qualifications. The proportion of the population with mental health support needs is very high. The percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is relatively high, at 6.5%.

A wide range of provision is made by the college, covering most sector subject areas. Young people can study vocational subjects at the main campus or take GCE A levels at the Sixth Form Centre. Apprenticeship provision is made in selected occupational sectors, including “Tech City” apprenticeships serving some 2,300 technology businesses in the Shoreditch area.

The college has links with financial institutions in the City of London to provide internships for students with related career intentions. It also operates four Sports Academies covering football, cricket, basketball and athletics. These academies have been awarded the London Educational Partnership Award. There is a wide range of enrichment activities supported by a dedicated enrichment team.

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1 http://www.hackney.ac.uk/about/tech-city-apprenticeships
Hackney University Technology College was opened by HCC and its partners in 2012, with specialisms in digital and health technologies.

**Study Programmes**

The college is developing its existing curriculum to meet Study Programme specifications by building a model which includes: the main academic or vocational qualification; tutorial time; English and maths Functional Skills for all students who do not have GCSE A*-C; and maths and English GCSEs being available for all students assessed as working at the appropriate level. Study Programme timetables will be within a 540 hour framework, with variations for particular groups such as students with learning difficulties or disabilities and those who have not previously been in education or training.

The college has substantial resource based learning provision which is being timetabled at one hour per week within Study Programmes, although access can take place outside the set times. Students will be able to benefit from online packages focusing on Functional Skills development as well as general coursework support in Resource Centres staffed by facilitators. Enrichment blocked time is to be piloted within each Faculty, to include Sport as well as Personal and Social Development and personalised recreational activities.

All students will take an Employability qualification during their induction and tutorial sessions. Enterprise and employability events and short courses will also be provided, both in departments and centrally through the college's collaboration with business and community partners.

**Programmes of study for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities**

The college has an established facility, supported by the Borough, to make provision for young people with severe learning difficulties and/or complex needs, or with autism. These students come through local schools. The provision, called New Horizons, will have 65 students in September 2013. The current year students study at HCC's Shoreditch Campus; they are fully integrated within the campus and in the local community. Through work with partners and the students' families, staff facilitate the highest levels of inclusive, personalised learning. Several of the New Horizons students have progressed on to the college's vocational courses in previous years and in 2012 the college won an AoC
Beacon Award for Inclusive Learning\textsuperscript{2}. Some students continue at college beyond 19 on individualised programmes.

Study Programmes for these students will be based on the “Preparing for Adulthood” approach. Each student will have an entirely personalised programme, planned around the four key areas of:

- Work,
- Living,
- Health and
- Social Activity.

The student's programme will provide target-driven learning towards agreed life goals in each of the four categories. The Study Programme will be set out in the young person’s Education, Health and Care Plan, which is a requirement of planned legislation taking effect in 2014.

The college envisages two or three phases of learning from 16 to 25, each having a very different ‘feel’, but key features of the provision for those in the Study Programme age group (and potentially above) will be:

- The college in partnership with youth services, community organisations, and employers will provide venues where students can spend significant amounts of guided time to experience, and gradually integrate into, the world of young adulthood, through a wide range of programmed activities.
- Tutorial provision, with an emphasis on students' self-advocacy (part of a pilot project through LSIS in 2012/13).
- Enterprise Projects, through which functional skills can be delivered (as appropriate to each learner), alongside practical, experiential activity.
- Taster courses across the college's departments, providing opportunities to explore skills for work and leisure.
- Evening provision where leisure opportunities in the community will be explored.
- Opportunities to learn work skills in a variety of companies and other relevant venues, supported by trained job coaches.
- Partnership with a supported employment agency, The Camden Society\textsuperscript{3}.
- Apprenticeship-type opportunities for those for whom open employment is a realistic goal.

All of these activities will be managed and structured, with each learner having a personal timetable forming his or her Study Programme. Opportunities for


\textsuperscript{3}http://www.thecamdensociety.co.uk/home
residential life skills learning are not yet in place but are expected to be part of the overall plan.