

Health & Social Care Curriculum Overview

Curriculum intent

We want students to develop the underpinning knowledge as well as practical and personal skills required to work in the health and social care sector. They learn how to deliver person-centred care and support to meet the needs of a variety of service-users. We do this through both the teaching of the course and where possible, through providing work placements. This can lead on to vocational courses such as nursing, social work and other allied health professions.

We also want our students to be highly efficient independent learners which the nature of this course lends itself to. Students have to complete primary and secondary research, write up reports, do presentations and practical activities in order to complete their coursework.

Curriculum Implementation

The course is organised to allow four units to be co-taught simultaneously by teachers with a range of specialisms. Students are given a week-to-week plan at the beginning of the year to show them the structure of their learning. We also build in time for students to complete a weekly work placement in year 12 and a block placement in year 13. Exam units are spread throughout year 12 and the first half of year 13 to allow for January entry. By March in year 13, students have completed all exam units, so that we are able to accurately predict their results and individually tailor the last coursework units in order to provide students with the best possible outcome.

Trips and extra-curricular activities help foster interest in learning alongside allowing students to apply their learning of theoretical skills to the real world.

Teaching methods include low stakes testing, class debate and discussion, teacher input alongside pupil research. The use of tables and worksheets to help with organisation of notes, group work, presentations, and links to contemporary issues.

There are minimal gaps in learning for content coverage as we were able to drop one unit in accordance with exam board guidelines which was unit 14 'physiological conditions'. The content of this unit is addressed in other areas of the course, in unit 4 'anatomy and physiology' and in unit 6 'personalisation in health and social care'. Due to the synoptic nature of these elements, we feel that the missed opportunity of completing the unit in full has been addressed in other areas of the course.

Where students lacked workplace skills that would have been useful for some elements of the course, we adapted the curriculum by using methods such as role plays and presentations to allow students to gain/use these skills in practice.

Curriculum impact

We feel that the health and social care course provides an excellent foundation for students to either move on to employment within the sector or further study. Nursing and social work degrees are popular with our students, alongside jobs in the education sector. We had two students accepted onto adult nursing courses, one onto midwifery, one onto social work, a student who is currently working and training as a teaching assistant in a school for special needs and multiple students who went on to study sociology and psychology.

With the demographics in the UK changing rapidly and the population living longer, the health and social care sectors will experience huge growth over the next few years. For those wishing to work in these sectors, our qualifications provide a solid foundation of knowledge, practical skills and experience.