

Richard Challoner School



St. Francis
Xavier Centre

A Post-16 entry programme for
young people with Moderate
Learning Difficulties (MLD)



Welcome

We are delighted that you have shown interest in the St. Francis Xavier Centre (SFX), our Post-16 Entry Programme. Officially opened in September 2016 this new programme, is embedded within Richard Challoner School which has a long-standing reputation for supporting young people with Special and Additional Needs within Kingston and Richmond LA and the wider community, with particular experience of housing successful resourced provisions for students with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. We are very much looking forward to extending our reputation for providing outstanding specialist education support into our existing Sixth Form offer over the coming years.

Our SFX programme specifically aims to support students who are the subject of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) aged between 16-18. The Centre forms an integral part of our Sixth Form and indeed the rest of our school community.

The SFX Centre enjoys enhanced access to a range of facilities across both the Sixth Form and the main school, including a range of study and social areas and well-equipped specialist teaching spaces. This means our Centre is fully integrated within our Sixth Form, providing curriculum and social opportunities which are highly inclusive.

The SFX will provide a vibrant and stimulating environment for young people to learn and work purposefully towards preparation for adulthood and further study. Our students are valued as individuals, recognised for their talents and challenged in their endeavours.



Sean Maher

Mr Sean Maher
Headmaster



K. Morley

Miss Katie Morley
Teacher in Charge

Our Provision

Our Mission

Every young person is unique and we recognise and value the contribution that all pupils make to our school community, regardless of ability, aptitude or need. Our mission is to create a community of love and learning, based on Christian values*, in which each young person can achieve their fullest educational potential to enable and empower.

**The SFX Centre welcomes all faiths*

Our Vision

Our SFX provision is the first of its kind within Kingston and Richmond Local Authority and we aim to build on our successful provision for students with Special and Additional Needs in the lower school. Our curriculum is aimed at students with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) working across the range of Entry Levels and up to Level 1 in basic skill areas. We also offer a range of holistic activities and opportunities to promote independence and support pupils to transition to adulthood successfully.

Our Aims

We have a commitment to ensuring that:

- young people with learning difficulties feel supported to develop their full potential through our purposeful and stimulating curriculum
- young people are encouraged to be independent in all aspects of development
- we promote the development of each individual's talents, skills, confidence and self-esteem
- we foster an environment which promotes values of self-discipline, respect for others, forgiveness, a spirit of generosity and encompassing principles of justice and peace.



Students taking part in 'Challoner Day' in central London

“I think this is an excellent school and I’m really enjoying being here” R. Town (July 2017)



Curriculum Offer

Our curriculum is divided into 3 different sections to signify the differences between our compulsory core, other accredited areas and holistic aspects of our provision. These are:

- Core Curriculum: Focussing on Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Life Skills
- Life Skills: Additional vocational and life skills to encourage independence and further study
- Enrichment: A cycle of enrichment and holistic opportunities to complement our core offer

We encourage pupils to work towards a degree of independence in all aspects of their lives, not just in school. Although we want students to enjoy and achieve, with a variety of accredited courses on offer, our curriculum is centred around providing opportunities for pupils to apply their learning to a range of real-life situations. As such, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which:

- Builds on pupils' prior knowledge and attainment
- Provides pupils with a range of accredited courses in core subject areas and purposeful life skills
- Empowers young people and draws upon their talents, interests and hobbies
- Allows pupils to become involved in a range of holistic enrichment activities

	Subject	Qualifications Offered
CORE	English	Entry Level 2 & 3; Level 1
	Maths	Entry Level 2 & 3; Level 1
	Information & Communication Technology	Entry Level 3; Level 1
	Personal Life Skills	Entry 3; Level 1 Award
	PSHE/SMSC	-
LIFE SKILLS	Travel Training	-
	Young Enterprise	-
	Work Experience	-
	College Link Course	Various (Y13 only)
	Work Skills	BTEC Entry Level 3 / Level 1
	Food Skills	BTEC Level 1 / Level 2
ENRICHMENT	Music	-
	Art (Therapy)	-
	Animal care	-
	Horticulture	-
	Physical Education	-
	Social activities	-
	Therapies *	-
	Film group	-

Dependent on individual needs based on EHCP, a range of therapy may be offered as part of their curriculum timetable. For example Drama therapy, Occupational therapy, Speech and language therapy or an Education Psychologist

Curriculum Plan is indicative and may change dependant on the needs of the students

Resources and Facilities

The St. Francis Xavier Centre enjoys its own purpose built classrooms and social spaces in close proximity to our Learning Support Department. We want to make students feel comfortable as they learn, socialise and relax and we hope our current plans help to achieve a balance between all of these conditions. We hope to complete Phase 2 of our building work before the next academic year – this will involve expanding our social area to include a fully functional kitchen space. Each classroom is fitted with SmartBoard technology; indeed, ICT plays a crucial role in the way that students are encouraged to learn and communicate. Each student will make use of iPads extensively as a learning tool and organisational device; additionally, students will have access to Wi-Fi for any other personal or learning devices.



Small, well-equipped classrooms provide the main teaching areas of the provision



Students making cakes engaged in our Food Skills programme

In addition, our Phase 2 plans feature an outdoor learning space and a social area which are exclusively for Centre use. We hope this will allow students to make choices about how and where they spend their time during unstructured times of the day. The close proximity of the Centre to our existing Learning Support Department means that strong links are also forged with our flagship SEND provision. As members of Richard Challoner Sixth Form, all students will also have access to the Mezzanine (Café) and exclusive Sixth Form spaces. Other subject areas such as Food Skills and Music will be taught in modern, well-equipped classrooms. Students can also make full use of our residential space at the front of our school building which can be used to teach a range of independent living skills.

Post 16 Life

Our aim is to foster the skills required for independent living and learning. In terms of continued education, this means we are bridging the gap between students' previous experiences of school-life and the expectations that can be anticipated in a college-based system or a workplace environment.

Provision staff plan flexible and creative opportunities for learning both in and outside of the classroom. This allows students to embed learnt life skills into real-life situations. Students are invited to make use of all school facilities and become involved in extra-curricular opportunities. This involves participating in our House System and other whole school events. In addition, pupils have the opportunity to be taught by a number of staff in the mainstream section of the school in more holistic areas of the curriculum such as Music and Food Skills. In addition, students in the mainstream within the Sixth Form take an active role in supporting and joining SFX students for social and learning activities. They will have weekly time dedicated to develop independent travel training.

Students enjoy a slightly shortened day (later start and earlier finish) than the rest of our school community. This enables students to avoid arriving and leaving the school at the busiest times of the day. Their timetable follows the same structure as the main school timetable and again, this enables students to integrate at break and lunchtimes in supervised areas or make use of Sixth Form facilities.



Sixth Form prefects delivering a presentation to SFX students



Students on a visit to Kingston Town Centre as part of their Life Skills programme

Students make use of a bespoke planner to assist them with organisation tasks; indeed, students are also expected to complete short tasks outside of class time as would be expected in college. Students wear a uniform which is unique to the provision and comfortable/practical for a variety of tasks; however, students also enjoy wearing casual clothing on selected timetabled days. Travel training forms an important part of our timetable and students benefit from a bespoke, practical travel training session. Termly evening events allows students socialise outside the classroom setting.

Admissions

Before a preference for a placement within the SFX is expressed, it is expected that parents and/or pupils will have made a visit to tour the provision, meet the staff and discuss the appropriateness of a possible placement within the Centre. Consultations for places will only take place for those pupils who:

- are of Year 11 age and ready to transfer to a Post-16 placement
- have a Primary Need which indicates a Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)
- are the subject of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- have a basic knowledge of literacy and numeracy and are ready to access Entry Level 2-3 in these subject areas
- demonstrate the ability and readiness to access a mainstream environment with access to specialist support

The current admissions arrangements outlined in the Service Level Agreement indicate that the provision will cater for up to 16 pupils across the two years of the programme. Under normal circumstances, it is likely that 8 pupils will be admitted at Post-16 transfer (and will normally have been in a specialist provision or Special School) into Year 12 each academic year. The Centre will not normally admit more than 8 pupils in an academic year. Decisions about admissions will be made by the SFX Steering Group which also acts as the Admissions Panel. This panel includes members of the Senior Leadership Team of Richard Challoner School, a nominated member of the Governing Body and representatives from Kingston/Richmond LA.

Where the number of applications for places exceeds the number of places available, the Admissions Panel will apply the following criteria (in order):

1. Pupils who are residents within Kingston and Richmond, whose EHCPs are maintained by Kingston or Richmond LA
2. Pupils whose Primary Need is indicated as a Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)
3. Pupils who are transferring from a Specialist Resourced Provision or Special School
4. Pupils attending Richard Challoner School (and who meet the over-arching criteria mentioned above)
5. Pupils whose needs can be clearly met (without question) through the use of per place funding without additional resources

Due consideration will also be given to ascertain whether or not the per-place funding allocated to pupils who are admitted represents the efficient use of LA resources, or indeed where the placement of that pupil will not result in the inefficient education of others.



FAQ's

What does SFX stand for?

SFX stands for St Francis Xavier Centre.

Where is the SFX Centre based?

The SFX Centre is located within the Richard Challoner School grounds. This is an exclusive Centre for the students but at the heart of the school, to encourage inclusive learning so students feel a part of the school community.

Richard Challoner School is a Catholic provision. Does that mean the SFX is Catholic?

The school prides itself to be one of the leading Catholic schools in the country, having just been awarded 'World Class' status. We do ask that Parents and Students respect that we are located within a Catholic school and may attend main events in the school calendar (Easter, remembrance service, Challoner Day', **however the Centre is not specific to any faith. We welcome students from all faiths.**

The school is an all-boys school. Is the Centre only for boys?

No. The Centre is for boys and girls. The school has approximately 1000 male students aged 11-16. However, we have a mixed Sixth Form aged 16-18.

How old do you need to be to go to the SFX Centre?

The Centre is for students who are at the end of the Year 11 and who are ready to transfer to a Post-16 placement. As it is a two-year course, students will stay until the end of year 13, unless special considerations are made for students to stay for one or three years.

What are Entry Level Courses and how do they relate to other qualifications?

Entry Level is the first rung on the National Qualifications Framework ladder. The Entry Level courses we offer are designed for students at Key Stage 4 for whom GCSE courses are not appropriate.

What qualifications can SFX students study?

We offer students a bespoke curriculum including the following qualifications:

- ❖ Edexcel Functional Skills English, Maths and ICT (Entry Levels 2, 3 and Level 1)
- ❖ BTEC Work skills (Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2)
- ❖ BTEC Home Cooking (Level 1 and 2)

What do students do on a Life Skills course?

Life Skills courses offer students the chance to learn and practise skills that they need for independent living. Topics covered can include things like: using money, telling time, personal hygiene, health & fitness, cooking and travel training. Part of the work is done in class but regular trips into the local community give students the opportunity to practise these skills in real life situations. Students are encouraged to use a mobile phone to aid with independence and organisation outside the classroom, especially when travelling independently. The SFX Centre has a mobile phone so students can contact us when required to do so.

Do you offer Speech and Language Therapy?

Yes, depending on the student's needs (as detailed on their EHCP plans) we offer Speech and Language Therapy either 1:1 or small group work. During the term the Speech and Language therapist assesses new and existing students with speech and language needs on their statements. She also runs weekly Communication Skills groups and recommends strategies staff can use to support students in class.

How do the students manage in a large school environment?

Our students cope very well in the large Richard Challoner School environment. It can take some time to get to know your way around any new place but we have very willing Sixth Form students who support the students from their initial induction days, to their individual lessons. They help mentor new students to ease the period of adjustment and settling in. We have a three-day induction at the beginning of July to enable a smooth transition into the SFX Centre and can offer taster days (or a couple of hours) upon request for students who would like to experience a 'typical day' here.

Are SFX students bullied or picked on?

All students in the school are very accepting of each other and we try to organise as much interaction as we can with the mainstream Sixth Form, where Sixth Formers give up their free lessons to join in group activities such as Fitness, Cooking and Team Enterprise. Richard Challoner has a zero tolerance approach to bullying; therefore, any reports of bullying are taken very seriously. The school also has two specialist provisions in the lower school and therefore students are accustomed to working with students of all abilities and many with specific learning needs. Challoner is a very inclusive community.

What about transport?

Many students join the Centre having little or no experience of independently travelling. We would strongly encourage parents to contact their local council to arrange transport or take part in the Balance scheme which is offered in the summer holidays. We run weekly travel training sessions, whereby staff fully support students to various locations to develop their confidence. We insist that all students travel with a mobile phone so they can be contacted at any time. This too can reassure parents, the students and the Centre and help develop their confidence.

Are students trained to travel independently?

Travel Training is part of the Life Skills course that we offer, once a week. Students who are not independent or confident travellers are identified and, if assessed as ready, are offered individual training on agreed routes. Students are given lots of opportunities to travel independently on short, medium and longer journeys to develop their skills and confidence.

How long can students stay at the SFX Centre?

Students can stay in the SFX Centre for up to three years depending on their age on joining. However, students who are able to 'move on' after two years - or even one - are encouraged to do so. Staff will make recommendations based on the young person's progress. All major recommendations about the young person's future will be discussed at an Annual Review/Transfer Review.

Where do students go at break and lunch times?

Students use the Sixth Form Mezzanine, which is available to all Sixth Formers. It has a canteen which sells a variety of food and drinks. All students can use their fingerprints to pay for items (topped up using Parentpay) or use cash. Students can also relax in the social area in the Centre, which has comfortable sofas, bean bags, magazines and a TV. The school canteen is also available and offers a range of food and drinks. Once students are fully independent and they have demonstrated they are

responsible, they are allowed offsite to go to the promenade of shops opposite the school. This is an earned privilege and parents will be notified to allow permission.

Is my child entitled to free school meals after the age of 16?

If your child receives free school meals at secondary school, or if your financial situation has changed recently, your son/daughter may be entitled to free school meals at Richard Challoner School. Please contact your Local Education Authority or the school finance team for more details on how to apply.

How can I find out more about the SFX Centre?

Visits to the Centre and school are always welcome. To arrange a visit please telephone the Head of the Centre Miss K Morley on 020 8330 5947. We will also be happy to answer any questions you might have over the phone and we can send you a copy of our latest prospectus or you can download our prospectus here and view it immediately.

How do I apply for a place?

Applications are made to the SEN Team at Richmond or Kingston Local Education Authority and not through the school. Please use the 'Register your interest' form in the prospectus. Forms should be sent to the Kingston/Richmond SEN Team or for Kingston/Richmond residents the form needs to be sent to the student's own local authority. You must apply by the last day in November to be considered for entry the following September. The Expression of Interest form can be found on the website www.richardchalloner.com/sfx

If I apply what will happen next?

The young person will be assessed by the Head of SFX during a visit to the young person's current school and if possible, during a visit to the SFX Centre. Information is gathered from teachers, parents and reports.

All applications are considered by the SFX admissions panel which sits in January. Places are offered to those students who meet the entry criteria.

What happens after my son/daughter leaves the SFX Centre?

Most SFX students go onto local Further Education Colleges where they progress onto Life Skills, Skills for Working Life or specific vocational courses at an appropriate level. In the second year, all students will spend one day at a work placement to help them develop their skills in a field of interest. This also encourages transitions onto Further Education, a supported Work placement or employment.

Why should I consider the SFX Centre for my child?

The SFX Centre offers students with Moderate Learning Needs a curriculum specifically aimed at **promoting independence, resilience and life skills** whilst continuing to work towards Entry Level qualifications in English, Maths and IT. It is a "stepping stone" between school and college and/or supported employment which will enable students to reach their own full potential. If your child is not quite ready to transition onto College/supported employment or not independent enough to take on the challenges these environments bring, we can support them over a two-year period to make these adjustments. By being in a larger environment, this will replicate what is expected, but in a smaller, calm provision as they are likely to be used to. We have dedicated staff to support students with a range of needs and interests and we use subject specific staff from around the school to deliver the high quality teacher each student deserves.

To discuss any aspect of the SFX centre please contact Miss Katie Morley on 020 8330 5947 or alternatively, you can email on missmorley@challoner.kingston.sch.uk