

Introduction

The Beacon Communication School is a specialist provision for secondary aged students with Social Communication Difficulties including Autism and Asperger Syndrome. We are situated in a purpose built building at Beal High School in the London Borough of Redbridge.

We currently have 60 students on roll and a staff of 30.

Our Aims

- Provide an Autism friendly environment where our students are happy and stimulated.
- Enable students to access mainstream opportunities appropriate to their educational and emotional needs.
- Establish awareness in the wider school community about diversity, so that our students are valued.
- Offer a broad, balanced curriculum that is Autism friendly and emphasises communication, social skills, autonomy and self-advocacy to prepare our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Classes are small and usually have between 6 and 8 students. The class does most of their learning in their class base with their teacher and Teaching assistant.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum consists of:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- ICT
- History, Geography and RE
- Music, Art and Drama
- Modern foreign language experiences
- Social Skills
- PSHE
- PE

All students are linked to a mainstream tutor group and will be timetabled to access some appropriate subjects in mainstream.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum has an emphasis on preparing students for moving onto college and becoming adults. We do this through nationally recognised accreditation, work experience opportunities, local college link courses and curriculum enrichment opportunities.

In Key Stage 4 students will work towards the 'Entry level' and Level 1 qualifications in English, maths and science.

In addition students study:

- ICT
- History, Geography and RE
- Music, Art and Drama
- Modern foreign language experiences
- Social Skills and life skills
- PSHE
- PE

Higher Level Qualifications

Some students may also access the mainstream school for GCSE and BTEC level 2 qualifications.

6th Form

Programme of study:

- Life skills course: ASDAN Personal and Social Development at Entry level 1, 2 or 3.
- Functional Skills ICT
- Music, drama and art
- Cooking
- Leisure PE

Other activities:

- Speech and language therapy
- Attend a local college one day a week
- Practise independent travel skills
- Take part in a residential
- Access work experience opportunities, usually one day a week.
- Provide support through the application, interview and orientation process for moving to college.

Speech Therapy

Our Speech and Language Therapists are integral members of our staff team and focus on developing the students' social communication and language skills.

Other External Agencies

We regularly work with agencies:

- Connexions
- CAMHS
- Social Services
- Education Psychology Service
- Health Professionals

Plus any other agencies or professionals involved with our students.

Extra-Curricular and Enrichment Activities

We are able to offer students a wide and varied programme of extra-curricular and enrichment activities throughout Key stages 3, 4 and 5 and an after school Youth Club and Holiday Club.