



Curriculum Policy

Education at the Studio begins with the needs of our students. We aim to provide an environment that allows us to know each of them well enough to support them as learners and which allows them all to succeed in becoming independent, caring and critical young adults aware of what they can contribute to and expect from society. The Studio will equip students with the technical skills and knowledge to progress successfully into careers in the creative, digital and technology sectors.

Through the curriculum we will achieve the STUDIO aims by:-

ensuring that every member of the STUDIO community knows that the STUDIO is genuine in its care and support of them.

encouraging independence of thought and respect each person's uniqueness and needs in the development of his/her talents and intellect.

encouraging each member of the STUDIO to show respect for each other, the wider community and understand and develop his/her role as an active responsible citizen.

ensuring students have a wide range of extending and enriching experiences and opportunities.

ensuring positive working conditions in which clearly stated standards of behaviour and courtesy are upheld.

providing a clean, bright, safe and stimulating environment.

being fair and just.

Students are all valued equally. They are encouraged to actively participate in the learning process with equitable access to resources and should be recognised as individuals with strengths to be nurtured and weaknesses to be supported.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 1 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



Each student is entitled to equality of educational opportunity through a curriculum which recognizing the requirements of the National Curriculum is broad, balanced, differentiated, relevant and tailored to individual need.

For students of compulsory educational age, the curriculum of the STUDIO will include

Core Subjects - English, Mathematics, Science, ICT

Other Subjects – Creative Media, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Physical Education

Option subjects and Vocational Courses - Computer Sciences, ICT BTEC (Computer Technology), Business, Film Studies, Art and Design

Cross-curricular skills – Communication, Relating to Others, Enterprise, , Analytical Thinking, Emotional Intelligence, literacy, numeracy, study skill

Sector Skills – Production skills, QA, Coding, Design skills, Project and Workflow Management, Community Relations, Financial Analysis

Cross-curricular themes - Information Technology, 'Managing your own learning'. Being Healthy, enjoying achieving, making a positive contribution, achieving economic well-being and enterprise, Careers & sex education, citizenship and environmental education, intercultural education.

Extended Day activities - Employer led project activities, visits, clubs, sport & fitness, activities week, performing arts presentations etc.

Work-based activity – All students in KS4 will have opportunities to work on project activities designed to simulate the digital based working environment within the STUDIO.

The curriculum will be built around the formal programme of lessons and assemblies and the informal opportunities offered through extended day provision. It will reflect the tone and ethos of the STUDIO and embrace the aims and values of the academic support system.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 2 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



THE SIXTH FORM AT THE STUDIO

The Sixth Form aims to provide every student with a first class education, regardless of background or ability. Through excellent teaching and guidance and high quality educational resources, it will offer students clear progression pathways to university and employment.

There will be on offer a range of courses and students can chose from 4 pathways focussed on facilitating A level qualifications or level 3 vocational courses. All students will engage in research projects leading to an extended project qualification.

Vocational qualifications will be provided at Advanced level through BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care, Business and Applied Science.

There will be a variety of level 2 options all of which will be supported by additional qualifications in Maths and English.

The Sixth Form curriculum will also include supported self-study to create independent learners. There will be opportunities for students to experience a wide range of extension activities. All will participate in some form of enrichment activities and there will be community programmes for them to volunteer for.

They will take an active part in the STUDIO House system being excellent role models for the younger students.

Students in the sixth form will have significant access to placement opportunities with partner employers. Work placements, internships or employer led projects will be integral to individual student programmes.

HE partners and work with employers will provide opportunities for students to genuinely participate in work based or research activity.

TEACHING & LEARNING

All students have the potential to be successful learners. We will provide an environment in which teachers and learners work together to identify strengths and weaknesses in a caring and positive way so that learning can take place without fear of failure.

Teachers will provide opportunities for students to:-

- work in appropriate groups: on their own, in small or larger groups, or as a class.
- share work with peers and make presentations to a range of audiences.
- work on relevant materials and issues.
- experience a wide range of teaching styles.
- work with up-to-date resources and technology.
- work at home engaged in purposeful pursuits.
- be involved in then- own learning.
- evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 3 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



- explore and investigate a wide range of resources within and outside the classroom.
- Share their experiences with the wider community.

Learning Styles

Teachers will provide within each lesson a variety of learning styles in order to engage students and to provide them with different ways of learning. It is expected that learning is focussed on student led activity, where group work and collaborative exploration are key components of lesson delivery.

Students will be assessed to demonstrate to them their preferred learning style and be helped to develop areas where they have less strength.

Over the course of a unit of work teachers will plan to use different learning styles and a variety of different activities and outcomes. Homework will focus on preparation for future lessons, where application of learned knowledge, problem solving and investigative work will be key components of time spent with peers and tutor support.

Break times are flexible to provide teachers with opportunities to utilise natural breaks in planned activities. Students will develop their group work and independent learning skills so that, over time, they will become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

Students working in an environment and atmosphere which has been planned to suit their needs and with access to stimulating and relevant resources will thrive in the pursuit of their learning.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 4 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



Working Together in Partnership

Education is a partnership between the STUDIO, student, parents and the wider community including employer partners. The STUDIO will involve all members of the partnership in opportunities aimed to foster a shared framework of beliefs and values about the education of young people in preparation for progression to the life sciences and health care sectors.

Students

We will give all students support and opportunities, enabling them to be fully involved in STUDIO life. Students will be encouraged to seize opportunities with enthusiasm, endeavour and responsibility.

We expect students to-

- Attend regularly.
- Be punctual.
- Have an enthusiastic and committed approach to their learning.
- Participate in extra-curricular opportunities.
- Have a responsibility to their own learning needs.
- Work co-operatively and supportively with peers and adults.
- Complete homework and meet deadlines.
- Represent the STUDIO positively with employer partners and the wider community.

Students working in this way will leave the STUDIO having taken advantage of all we have to offer.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 5 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



Home

The STUDIO and parents/guardians should recognise and develop a partnership that works for the benefit of their young people. Education begins at home through experiences which provide academic, personal and social development.

The STUDIO will positively encourage its partnership with parents and guardians by:-

- Providing opportunities for parents to visit STUDIO and observe a full spectrum of STUDIO life.
- Informing parents about current educational issues and development.
- Communicating about their children's learning outcomes by interim reports, full reports and parents' consultation appointments.
- Working with the PTA to enable active involvement in curricular, extra-curricular and social events.
- Making available syllabuses, schemes of work and other documentation relating to the curriculum.

We hope parents will wish to:-

- Support the aims and ethos of the STUDIO.
- Encourage good attendance, punctuality, enthusiasm for learning and respect for others.

Community

The STUDIO will be able to provide a richer and more relevant education by developing strong links with the community. Transition between different phases of education will be eased by creating links into other educational establishments and work places.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 6 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



A shared and common approach between STUDIO and the community will provide students with the best opportunities for successful learning

The STUDIO will seek resources and opportunities from the community which:-

- Provides a focus for students' aesthetic and spiritual development.
- Establish continuity between secondary and FE and HE experiences.
- Offer vocational applications to programmes of study.
- Offer appropriate vocational courses at all levels with work experience placements as required
- Provide governorship, management and financial expertise.
- Offer staff development through teacher placements and exchange of ideas.
- Allow experts to contribute to the curriculum.
- Encourage appropriate 16+ choices for students in our community and across the city allow students to serve the community and share their talents with a wider audience.

Governors

The composition of the governing body will reflect a combination of lay and professional views from life sciences and wider community. It will influence and shape the direction in which the STUDIO develops and represent the stance of the STUDIO in the community.

Well established links with external agencies will enrich the curriculum

The governors should: -

- Support the STUDIO in the community.
- Ensure the STUDIO relates effectively with the community.
- Debate and determine the educational direction of the STUDIO within national and local policy.
- Assist with the strategic planning; mentor and evaluate the STUDIO's development.
- Ensure appropriate curricular provision for all students.
- Support the Principal and her staff in their responsibilities for the internal organisation and management of the STUDIO.
- Ensure parents are kept informed of the work of the governing body and the STUDIO.
- Ensure efficient effective use of financial resources.

A governing body bringing expertise in contemporary life sciences as well as areas such as management and finance, representing the views of the local community and establishing the STUDIO's place in the community, will assist the STUDIO to fulfil its educational objectives.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 7 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013

Public Examinations

We will provide students with a co-ordinated and supportive framework designed to meet individual needs and to allow maximum potential to be achieved by:-

- Offering high quality information advice and guidance so that a suitable programme of study from core and option subjects can begin in Year 10 or Year 12
- Monitoring progress and provide effective intervention where students are identified as not learning effectively on chosen programmes.
- Making adjustments to the programme of study for individuals as necessary
- Staging coursework into manageable units with clear guidelines, targets and appropriate deadlines for unit completion.
- Offering examinations designed to give students practice in examination questions and techniques
- Preparing quality estimated grades.
- Giving guidance at parents' consultation evenings.

STRATEGY

We aim to enable all students starting a public examination course to be successful at their individual level

There will be no block leave. Where it is identified there will be leave from the individual subject timetable but instead there will be courses on revision and revision courses.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 8 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



Start of Year 10

Year 10 marks the beginning of students' time at the STUDIO.

Students have joined the STUDIO to focus on creative, computer and digital technology. This early choice of specialism will not restrict future choices as all students will still have the opportunity to gain most of their achievement through the core of English, maths science and ICT.

Year 10 –

- Guided choice of appropriate programme of study - coordinated by Senior Leadership Team and Special Educational Needs team.
- Early monitoring of progress on courses and targeting of students showing cause for concern.
- Early in exam progress to undertake assignments modelled on course work requirements for practice.
- Stage coursework with intermediate deadlines and ongoing assessment and guidance.
- Appropriate practice tests for examinations.
- Estimated grade based on examination and coursework to date.
- Parents' consultation days and support workshops.
- Coursework deadlines which will not be broken
- Adjustment to programmes of study for suitable candidates, ie those whose performance could be enhanced by reducing number of subjects taken.

All students who embark on a course will finish it unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 9 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



Setting and Grouping

All students will be tested on entry to the STUDIO and placed in a House. Each house and each tutor group within that House will be mixed ability. This is to allow for family and social groupings.

Setting within the Curriculum

All curriculum areas may set. The leaders may set by gender, age, ability or aptitude and these set may vary from unit to unit, depending on the reason for setting. Setting arrangements will be reviewed with teaching leaders as part of the STUDIO quality assurance cycle.

The Teaching Leader will have a published rationale for doing so which she/he will share with the students and parents.

No subject area's setting will impinge on another areas setting.

Teaching Leaders may also rotate classes round teachers and vice versa to enable the students to benefit from the expertise and different skills of the teacher.

Raising Attainment Plans

Where assessment indicates students are at risk of underachievement, they will be identified and detailed plans to intervene and support them to improve their performance across subject areas.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 10 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013



The STUDIO will operate a policy of innovative teaching and grouping according to needs and demand. Lead teaching of classes of 60 + may happen at the start of new units so that students are given the same high quality information and knowledge. A series of master class presentations from contemporary technologists will provide opportunities for students to experience extraordinary and current developments in groups of up to 120. Class sizes will therefore be variable according to need and circumstance.

Curriculum Development

The curriculum in Sept 2013 is designed for the first year of the STUDIO and will develop and evolve over time.

The curriculum offer will remain under constant review with a detailed plan of curriculum development priorities made annually

The best bits of the curriculum

These are the bits that are not planned for in lessons and that change lives. We aim to work these miracles every day, every week and every year

Each student will be given the opportunity to experience the extraordinary. They will be exposed to contemporary digital technology practices that are targeted to inspire and engage them.

They will have opportunities to share and celebrate their achievements, participating in a range of community events and national competitions.

Outstanding schools transform the lives of young people. Our curriculum and our hidden curriculum is created to enable our students to develop the knowledge and technical skills they need to contribute to successful careers in the life sciences sector.

Origination	Authorised by	Issue No.	Page 11 of 11	Date
SM		1.0		15/5/2013