

# **Vocational Specialist Status**

## **Transforming Education 14-19**

SJNCC

April 2007

## **2000 Vocational Specialist Schools by 2008 with the following goals:**

- Increase take-up of vocational courses pre 16
- Increase participation in post-16 education/training
- Build strong local partnerships with other schools and institutions - FE, HE, training providers and employers - to develop an area-wide vocational offer (including English and maths, work related learning and employability skills programmes) commensurate with the new Diploma lines
- Develop clear progression routes for students
- Offer high quality, impartial guidance towards clear progression routes

## What this means for SJNCC




Becoming one of only 107 Vocational Specialist Schools provides us with a great opportunity

- to extend and improve the quality and range of vocational opportunities for all students at SJNCC
- to build partnerships which will enable us to establish clear 14-19 progression pathways for our students

# Vocational Specialism will help us and our partners to improve:

- staff skills by updating and extending our repertoire of teaching and learning styles
- entry and level 1 provision to increase student success rate
- take-up of vocational courses at level 2 and 3
- % of students achieving level 2 threshold (5 A\*-C)
- development of key/basic skills and the introduction of functional skills
- student motivation and participation through and beyond KS4
- the quality of work with off-site providers particularly employers
- feedback from post 16 providers leading to better informed IAG re appropriate progression routes

## Our plans involve 3 focus areas;

-  To extend the range of vocational opportunities for all students 14-19
-  To improve the quality of student IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance) and to extend student tracking and support 14-19
-  To implement effective quality assurance ensuring clear progression 14 – 19

# 1. To extend the range of vocational opportunities for all students 14-19

- Expansion of vocational options including Applied GCSEs and BTEC qualifications at entry, level 1 & 2
- Collaboration with The Lancaster School to offer new courses from Sept 2007- Animation (NCfE), Sociology (GCSE), ICT (OCR National) and Performing Arts (BTEC)
- Links with other institutions to form local consortia offering a range of courses and clear progression pathways

# Collaboration

- We intend to build on established partnerships, extending further through our other two specialisms.
- In particular, we propose to maintain and build on links with The Lancaster School, Leicester, Regent and Wygggeston QE Colleges to form a core partnership.
- As lead practitioners to promote shared INSET and work with employers/sector skills specialists and ensure high standards of teaching and learning

## 2. Improve the quality of student IAG and student tracking and support 14-19

- Develop a team of staff to advise students at the end of KS3 and 4 to help them make appropriate choices
- Develop Individual Learning Plans to enable students to monitor their own learning and to inform and support IAG
- Contribute to the development and use of the Area Wide Prospectus
- Establish reporting systems across institutions to monitor student progress/satisfaction
- Set up procedures to facilitate feedback from post-16 providers to inform guidance re progression routes



### **3. Effective quality assurance ensuring clear progression 14 – 19**

- Establish agreed protocols across the partnership
- Develop and share use of e technologies to support learning and report on student attendance/progress
- Set up systems for monitoring teaching and learning across the partnership eg. lesson observations
- Provide moderation and standardisation training
- Provide cross-phase classroom management and subject-specific skills training eg. team-teaching

# Vocational Specialism will

- support work with the Local Authority and the Learning Skills Council to meet local and national improvement targets and identified local needs and skills shortages.
- support work with employers and training providers to extend provision for work related learning and work experience placements for students and staff.
- provide evidence of collaboration, vocational expertise and clear progression routes which are essential prerequisites for the anticipated delivery of the new Diploma Lines.

# Vocational Specialism will enable us

- to provide more personalised pathways for individual students,
- to offer a range of courses and alternative accreditation at all levels
- to provide better quality, individual IAG
- to establish clear progression routes

Which together should mean

- fewer students fail to complete KS4 courses
- more students will continue in education or training, with reduced drop out rate post 16.

# Vocational Specialist Schools will

- Become exemplars for high quality vocational teaching and learning
- Ensure a rich local offer to all young people across the ability range within their school and with other secondary schools in their locality
- Base this offer on personalised pathways for individual students