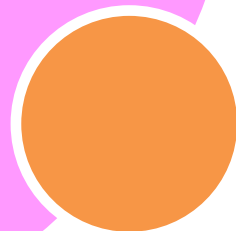


STEPHENSON STUDIO SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

2017





*Excellence and
enterprise in
learning*

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Choosing a school is one of the toughest decisions we're ever likely to make. Before we choose, it's important to be clear about what we want from a school.

Of course we want young people to have qualifications that will open the door to university or further study. Ultimately, we all want young people to be successful in work.

Successful young people create wealth and enable us all to have a better society. All too often employers lament that young people are not ready for work. It's not just that they can lack basic skills. Often the problem is more fundamental: young people lack confidence and a passion for learning.

A thirst for learning is vital. The mere acquisition of knowledge is never enough for anyone. Knowledge dates. Every one of us will have to learn new skills and become steeped in new fields of knowledge at some point of our lives.

I am passionate about learning and about personal development. It is why I am both a teacher and a learner.

Part of being successful in both life and work is recognising what we don't know more than what we do. It is by being open to the possibility of finding better ways of working, of achieving, of producing, of living, that we become better people and contribute more to society.

At Stephenson Studio School we help young people develop a thirst for learning. In doing so, we help them to become confident people who have all the necessary skills and attributes to enable them to succeed in adult life.

If you would like to apply for a place or find out more about the Stephenson Studio School, please contact us in one of the following ways:

☎ 01530 519099

✉ info@stephensonstudioschool.co.uk

🌐 www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk



Keith Hobbs
Head Teacher

WE ALL WANT WHAT'S BEST

Choosing a school for and then with, our children can be very stressful.

It can be hard to find reliable information that will inform this choice.

For years newspapers have been filled with stories of school failure, rarely success.

Such coverage can colour our decisions.

There are, of course, thousands of very successful schools in the UK that prepare learners brilliantly for further study and successful lives.

Even successful schools face challenges.

Good schools tend to be well resourced, have low staff turnover, good discipline, strong relationships with employers and a sound reputation. But not all schools are able to achieve this.

Knowing this is of little comfort to parents. While we may be concerned about the state of British education in general terms, we worry first and foremost about our own.

Here in Leicestershire, we have opened a new type of school, designed to help young people flourish both in their studies and in work.



“Part of being successful in both life and work is recognising what we don't know more than what we do”

STEPHENSON STUDIO SCHOOL

Studio Schools are state schools that have been developed over the past five years on the basis of extensive research. They are designed to equip young people with the knowledge, skills and experiences they will need to succeed in both life and work.

The model has been developed in partnership with local and national employers, the country's leading education agencies and partners from up and down the country.

Studio Schools can help tackle two key challenges.

The first challenge is how to maximise the time that a learner spends in school. **Studio Schools** will help young people get the most out of their school time by using innovative teaching and small class sizes. **Studio Schools** are custom-built around the way that people learn. Not everyone is able to do their best in a traditional classroom setting.

The second challenge is how to prepare learners for success beyond school and university. **Studio Schools** help young people prepare for successful working lives. Meaningful and challenging work experience is a key part of the curriculum.

Our **Studio School** is sponsored by **Stephenson College**, a bold, confident organisation that provides further and higher education courses, has excellent links with employers and is one of the most enterprising colleges in the UK.

“Stephenson Studio School ensures that learners ...

- *Learn in small classes*
- *Develop employability & enterprise skills*
- *Acquire key qualifications*
- *Experience project based learning*
- *Experience real work”*

BEING THE BEST WE CAN

Our drive for academic excellence is non-negotiable.

Schools that make academic excellence a cornerstone of their approach flourish.

We never compromise on the drive for academic achievement. We believe that learner's performance can be enhanced in a number of ways.

Year 10 learners will work towards a range of GCSE and vocational qualifications in addition to acquiring the CREATE skills.



HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE

The following are the additional ways we ensure that our learners can be helped to thrive.

A PERSONAL COACH

Every one of our learners has a **Personal Coach**. He or she works closely with learners, encouraging them to reflect on their work and supporting them so each can make the most of work-based and school opportunities.

Our **Personal Coaches** operates alongside our teaching staff to maximise learners' progress and achievement.

Meetings with **Personal Coaches** take place every half term, during which time learners review their progress and plan work that supports their learning sessions.

AN EXCELLENT STAFF TO PUPIL RATIO

We have an excellent staff-pupil ratio. This ensures that learners do not get lost as more outward personalities clamour for attention. But ensuring that learners feel personally engaged and supported is not simply a matter of numbers. The way that classes are taught can also enable learners to work at their best. A combination of collaboration – working in teams and groups – and competition brings out potential in most of us.

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Achievement also depends upon a positive attitude. We believe that “good enough” is never good enough. High expectations live in every moment of our school day. Our approach is to expect the best in everything that learners do. This is about fostering an attitude, a life outlook, which will help learners realise the value of focus and determination.

CONFIDENCE

We ensure that our learners have all the skills they needs to become confident, mature individuals who are highly employable. Confidence is a powerful quality, one that opens doors and enables people to make the best of all opportunities.

We ensure that our learners acquire the key skills needed to serve them well in adult life through the **CREATE framework**.

CREATE : PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

A number of years ago, the CBI carried out research to identify the skills set most likely to enable people to succeed at work.

This research has been supported by detailed academic research. None of these skills are a surprise - they are a key part of our daily working life.

The six core skills form the **CREATE framework**. These form the basis of the Studio School curriculum and are set out below:

- Communication
- Relating to people
- Enterprise
- Applying knowledge
- Thinking
- Emotional intelligence



PERSONAL COACHING

It is easy to talk to learners about work in the classroom. But there is no substitute for learning about it first-hand. Being successful at work is hard. To help prepare learners for working life, schools make work experience part of the curriculum.

Invariably however, learners have too little exposure to work to enable them to develop a strong understanding of work culture and appropriate work behaviours. What's more, short bursts of work experience mean that few learners develop the stamina they will need to thrive in a working environment.

Success at work is more important now than ever before. The UK faces massive competition now from abroad in virtually every market. The more effective our workforce is, the more competitive the UK will be.

Employers increasingly want people who are work ready.

Our Key Stage 4 learners experience meaningful internships for one day each week with a reputable employer. This takes place throughout year 10 and 11.

Each learner works closely with their **Personal Coach** and the prospective employer to plan their internship. They will be expected to garner particular kinds of experience. Learners develop an understanding of teamwork, interpersonal development, and seeing ideas through from inception to execution. They are also expected to take responsibility for a focused piece of work that can be used as part of their curriculum vitae.

By the end of their stay at **Stephenson Studio School**, we expect every learner to be able to operate effectively in an adult working environment and to have the understanding, skills and stamina to do it effectively. That means not only being clear about how adults behave at work but also demonstrating those behaviours as a matter of course.

“Our learners are mentally ready for the rigours of work and experienced in getting the most out of a working environment”

PROGRESSION

A successful school career will ultimately prepare learners for a successful working life. This may happen in several ways. Either school will help learners find the best university, college or further training to enable them to acquire all the skills they need for work. School could enable learners to prepare themselves for immediate entry into working life. Or learners may decide to set up their own business.

Whichever route a learner takes, it is vital that all of their time at school is focused on helping them achieve their full potential.

Successful progression is not something that is done in the year running up to university or work. Careers are built on the sound foundations of good planning, regular reviews and involving learners and parents in decisions.

We believe that achievement is a product of setting stretching but realistic targets. The best learners aspire to be better in everything they do. Our school supports excellence by setting and maintaining high standards for all.

Our staff regularly assess learners work and their progress towards their target grades.

We send parents half-termly reports on their children's progress and convene regular discussions so that we may look at ways of helping learners achieve their full potential. Each of our learners will develop a **Personal Improvement Plan (PIP)**. This forms the basis of their relationship with their **Personal Coach**.

Where learners show signs of having difficulties or unexpected underachievement, we support them in addressing the reasons for any deviation from their **Personal Improvement Plan**.

We ensure that our learners have clear progression routes through to higher education or employment. We build on our excellent links local employers and training providers to ensure our learners receive the best higher education opportunities and meaningful work experience as an integral part of their individualised programme of study.

WORKING WITH PARENTS

Schools alone cannot ensure learners success.

Parents' views and wise counsel are fundamental to a young person's success.

Parents need to be empowered so they can be effective partners in their children's learning.

Parents can guide young people's decisions, assist them in putting learning in context and as school, university and work careers develop they can advise and support them.

But to be effective, parents need a number of things.

Parents need information. All of us are always more effective when we are kept abreast of developments: what our children are doing, when and how well. Up to date information allows us to offer support in the right way at the right time.

Parents need to have a robust relationship with the school. Parents who feel awkward in dealing with tutors are not always able to work alongside the school in enabling their children to do their best.

Parents need to be able to talk to teachers about young people's progress and where they might be able to offer support.

Finally, parents need to be able to access the school when it matters. There is little point in arranging a meeting several weeks after it is needed. Decisions have to be made when it matters.

*"All our parents have direct access through email to every member of staff, along with individual access to our **Parental Portal** through the Studio School website"*

OUR CURRICULUM

Seven essential elements lie at heart of the Stephenson Studio School model. These are:

- Employability and enterprise skills
- Real work
- Key qualifications
- Small Schools
- Personalised curriculum
- Practical learning
- Learners of all abilities

HOW THESE WORK IN THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

Learners will follow the National Curriculum and gain key qualifications. In addition to this learners will also complete a number of projects.

The school subject curriculum includes a range of GCSEs and vocational qualifications, including English language, English literature, mathematics, double award science, ECDL, computer science, geography, history, travel & tourism and business studies.

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

All projects have been developed through discussion with educational experts, local partners, employers and the Studio Schools Trust. Each project supports and enhances the delivery of the subject specific material by developing key learning skills.

Learners will have subject specific learning sessions to support preparation for exam success. Wherever possible these are linked to the context of the enterprise projects to root learning in the real world. Personal and small group coaching sessions will help learners with any areas of study that they find challenging.

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Every Key Stage 4 learner will undertake a full day of employment each week. During their time with each employer, which will usually be for a minimum of a term per internship, learners will make a measurable contribution and will acquire the **CREATE skills** as they work.

APPLYING FOR YOUR PLACE

Applications to join **Stephenson Studio School** in Year 10 are via your Local Authority.

Parents will be notified by the Local Authority of the decision on National Offers Day, 1st March.

If you do not live in Leicestershire you will need to call your own Local Authority for an application form.

Applications can be made using the link on the school's website – www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk

EVERYONE IS EQUAL

At Stephenson Studio School, we will provide appropriate opportunities for everyone to maximise their potential regardless of background, circumstances, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities. We will promote a supportive environment free from discrimination.

1

Complete a copy of our application form available from www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk

2

Make sure you complete your application form as soon as possible. Applications for September 2017 need to be received by the **31st October 2016**. We are able to accept late applications but will only offer places if they are available.

3

Admission over-subscription criteria are applied to decide how places are allocated when there are more applications than places. These criteria are outlined in our Admissions Policy which can be found at www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk

4

Confirmation of places will be sent in **March 2017**

5

You will be invited to attend an Information and Advice evening and learners will attend a transition week in July to ensure your transition from Year 9 to Year 10 is smooth and effective.



INFORMATION EVENINGS

We will be holding information evenings throughout the year. These events take place at Stephenson Studio School, **starting at 4:30 pm.***

To reserve your place at our next information evening go to
www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk

*Dates and times are correct at the time of printing. For more information on upcoming events and information evenings please visit **www.stephensonstudioschool.co.uk**

STEPHENSON STUDIO SCHOOL

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The information given in this prospectus is for guidance only. In compiling it the Trust has taken every effort to ensure it is as accurate as possible and is subject to change without notice

**Stephenson Studio School is sponsored by
Stephenson College**