The Extended Curriculum

The school's core curriculum provision is enhanced and broadened by the provision of:

Personalised learning programmes
Many students also access personalised learning programmes (PLPs). These programmes supplement the core curriculum and are designed to meet individual student's needs. The programmes, include for example, hydrotherapy sessions in the school's swimming pool, rebound therapy and sensory integration programmes, personal care/hygiene programmes, independent travel programmes, mainstream link programmes etc. Mainstream link programmes are provided for some higher attaining students, in order to offer, both a greater degree of academic challenge in identified subjects and, exposure to a more demanding social environment.

Many PLP programmes are planned and delivered in collaboration with other professionals, for example, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language colleagues and members of the local authority's visual impairment team.

Themes days and weeks
Periodic changes to the curriculum diet through the provision of 'themed days/weeks', provide opportunities to learn from and with visiting musicians, drama groups, teachers and students from other countries, and access to learning opportunities outside school. These themed days/weeks, provide additional breadth and novelty to the curriculum which motivates and challenges students.

Work Experience opportunities at Key Stages 4 and 5
Many students in Year 11 and the 6th form have the opportunity to access work experience placements with local employers in the public and private sector. Supported placements are set up with the student's abilities and needs in mind to experience employment practice and essential social skills learning in the workplace.
To date, students have enriched their work-based learning and further developed their independence by attending placements in areas of their stated interest and known skills. Placements have taken place in retail outlets; animal care; hospital services; catering; construction services; administration; hair and beauty; theatres; childcare and horticulture. Students also participate in placements organised by 'Project Choice' and have made the transition to a full year internship programme followed by paid employment.

Extended schools activities
All students have the opportunity to continue their learning after school by taking part in cycling, swimming, rebound therapy, hydrotherapy, "Lets Get Cooking", climbing, sport and trampoline activities. In addition, during the summer holidays, all students are offered the chance to take part in our summer camps programme, where they participate in a range of activities

Educational residential opportunities

The opportunity to experience a residential visit is offered to most students during their time in Sir Charles Parsons School. Students access outdoor and adventurous activities through providers such as the Bendrigg Trust and the Calvert Trust. The school also makes use of a hostel on the Northumberland coast to provide educational residential opportunities.

International Links

The school has linked with partner schools in Europe and Africa for seven years. Students and staff extended their knowledge and understanding of the culture and education systems in Latvia, Finland, Poland, Belgium, Denmark and South Africa. Our students have extended their personal skills by welcoming students and staff from each of our partner schools to our school. A significant number of students from this school have had the opportunity to visit our partner schools in Europe.

The school has recently been awarded the British Council prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the wider world into the classroom. This award is recognition of outstanding work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.