



THE INDIVIDUAL TUITION UNIT

(Special Educational Needs)

The New Eccles Hall School has a thriving Individual Teaching Unit (also known as the College of Knowledge) which caters for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties across the whole age and ability ranges and as such, there is no stigma attached to those who attend. Pupils are withdrawn from classes on a one-to-one basis and depending on the severity of their difficulties, they can receive up to four and occasionally five periods a week of individual tuition.

Five members of staff do all their teaching in the ITU and some subject specialist teachers also teach a number of one-to-one lessons during the week.

Staff attend courses to update themselves with current theories and practices regarding such Specific Learning difficulties as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Disorder and communication problems such as Aspergers and Semantic/Pragmatic Language Disorder. Much of this material is then disseminated to the rest of the school staff to increase awareness of the difficulties our pupils can face. Valuable material experienced at such courses can also be put into practice e.g. Dr. Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment programme (I.E) which helps organization, planning and social awareness, has been implemented in some year groups.

Pupils with specific problems in the area of spatial awareness are able to follow a programme in conjunction with the Art Department whereby they can improve their 2D and 3D perception of figures, shapes, plans and diagrams. For those pupils with numeracy problems additional Maths input is also given in the ITU, as is support for the organization of subject work and GCSE Coursework. One of the ITU staff has a qualification for teaching English as a Foreign Language (E.F.L) and several of our students have been successful in passing the Cambridge language examinations.

The ITU has had the expertise of a Kinesiologist for several years so staff are able to do "Brain Gym" with some of the pupils. A series of co-ordination exercises are completed each session which are designed to integrate both halves of the brain and body into a better functioning, fully integrated whole. Improvements to concentration, hand-eye co-ordination and in reading speed and accuracy are frequently observed.

The ITU is well stocked with resources used in multisensory programmes structured according to individual needs. Pupils who have particular difficulty accessing the written aspects of the curriculum can be trained to use the Voice Recognition software on the computer. This means that once an independent user, the pupil can present his or her work neatly and accurately without undue stress and effort.

As well as sometimes giving in-class support to certain pupils in addition to their one-to-one work, the ITU staff also act as Key Workers ensuring that individual pupils receive support both academic and social across the curriculum and when necessary they will liaise with House staff in the boarding areas.