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Come and find out about our education with a difference

Open Day at STEPS Staines Learning Centre is on Tuesday February 9th

A second chance... that's what the education charity, the Surrey Care Trust, is holding out to the young people at the STEPS Staines Learning Centre.

The 15 and 16 year-olds who attend the centre have, for all kinds of reasons, struggled to fit into school and thrive. Often they have been through exclusion after exclusion, or may have barely been attending school.

All have the potential to do well but without the intensive help of a programme which provides education with a difference, they will go out into the world with no or limited qualifications and skills to help them make their way.

Young people attend the Staines learning centre during their final year of secondary education - year 11 - when it is clear that they are not going to benefit from spending that time in school.

Of course, above all, making a successful start in life matters to them as individuals, but at a time when more than one million 16 to 25 year-olds in the UK are classified as NEETS (not in employment education, or training) it is also important for wider society that every young person is encouraged to aim to do as well as they possibly can.

The Surrey Care Trust's STEPS alternative education programme is designed to motivate young people to realise they have talents and make something of their abilities, to encourage them to behave more responsibly and to broaden their horizons.

STEPS has a more relaxed atmosphere than school because the young people have rebelled against formal education.

But they are given clear guidelines about how they are expected to behave and treat their fellow students. The goal for the end of their year at STEPS is for the young people to gain some qualifications, improving their chances of finding work or providing a stepping stone back into mainstream education with a place at college.

Come and find out more about STEPS and how the young people are getting on on Tuesday February 9th, when the centre has an open day. It's situated in the Thameside Arts building in Wyatt Road, Staines. The open day is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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