



# CULTURAL ENTITLEMENT

Cottenham Village College is an inclusive school which has a very strong tradition of quality cultural provision for all students. We firmly believe that cultural experiences are an integral part of the education we offer students, enriching and complementing experiences both inside and outside of school. However, we also believe that 'culture' is an end in itself and not just a means to an end. In helping to shape the adults of the future, we want to promote activities and experiences which are stimulating, enjoyable and uplifting in themselves and not merely as a means to a qualification. We also value the students' own contributions to the cultural life of the school, recognising their many talents.

In the recent Ofsted report [May 2009], Cottenham Village College was judged to be outstanding in its curriculum provision; the extended curriculum was mentioned as a particularly strong feature. A recent health-related behaviour survey showed that students from CVC have a much greater participation rate in sport than the local and national average. Similarly, Activities' Week, held in July each year, enables all students to participate in a residential visit if they choose to; the majority of students do take part.

As a community college, we also have many years' experience in the provision of activities and events which include families and our diverse wider community. Sport, outdoor activities and all aspects of the arts have a particular emphasis; we have a SSCO and an Arts Development Officer to help facilitate this but the school is constantly looking for further cultural developments both within the curriculum and as part of our extended school

provision. The school has been awarded the Activemark in recognition of its excellence in sport and will be re-bidding for the Artsmark in the autumn of 2009.

During their time at Cottenham Village College, students will have opportunities to take part or experience many of the following:

- residential trips: walking trips to the Lake District and Derbyshire, camping at Ferry Meadows in Peterborough, a canal trip or High Adventure based in Yorkshire, visits to London, Paris or The Black Forest
- participation in a school concert or production
- working with professional storytellers, poets, dancers, artists and musicians
- attendance as a supporter at live sporting events
- visits to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and in London
- take part in competitive sporting events both within school (inter-form) and inter-school
- participation as a performer in competitions – e.g. sport, dance
- attendance at the annual King's College carol concert
- taking part in a 'news day', working against the clock to produce a newspaper, podcast, web-page etc.
- two weeks' work experience in Year 10, including placements based in the catering industry, travel and tourism, architects' offices, libraries, museums, dance colleges, football academies etc.
- contributing to school-based art and DT exhibitions





- exchanging letters with partner schools in France
- engage in collaborative projects with a partner school, Nalanda College in Sri Lanka
- use information and communication technologies to create interactive presentations, web-pages and other creative outcomes
- working collaboratively with feeder primary students on a variety of cultural activities including science, design-based and creativity days
- participation in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
- taking part in a 'mock trial' in a real court
- one to one instrumental/singing tuition
- catering for real events
- taking part in a school-based book club discussing and reviewing recent publications
- shadowing the judging of national children's book competitions
- fundraising for charity by taking part in a variety of cultural events including school-based 'Strictly Come Dancing' and 'Weakest Link' competitions
- gaining a Sports Leaders Level 1
- Participating in the Young Ambassador programme to promote Olympic values
- organising a Festival of Sport with local primary schools
- taking part in poetry and story-writing competitions
- visiting local and national theatres
- visiting local and national museums and galleries
- visits to local war memorials and places of worship
- field trips which include both urban and rural environments
- pond-dipping
- archaeological digs

- working with different generations [elderly people and younger primary students] on a variety of cultural activities including oral history projects and joint writing projects
- visits to Ypres and Berlin or Munich as part of their study of history
- contributing design ideas for local signs and areas
- Japanese/Chinese language taster sessions
- Study of French art/music/film

### FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Although we feel that we offer students many opportunities to participate in a wide variety of cultural events and activities both as participants and as spectators, we are constantly seeking to promote further opportunities and to diversify into areas where we have not, traditionally, been as strong. The areas which have been identified as having potential for expansion include:

- media-based opportunities including making animations and movies
- use of foreign media to support the Languages curriculum
- introduction of a film club
- more theatre and performance-based visits
- greater use of the resources in the excellent local museums and galleries
- appreciation of the aesthetics of buildings and the built environment
- food culture including work with senior citizens to rediscover 'forgotten foods' and use of Food for Life Flagship status to extend work on food cultures
- more faculties to work with the Arts Development Officer to develop opportunities for cultural activities





- extend work with Nalanda College, Sri Lanka to include a student exchange

