

Community Overview

'Community' is viewed in many different senses. We try to support primary schools in the area and to offer opportunities for their staff and students to work with us using our 'technology specialism'. We also engage on a number of projects where we work with local community organisations to help enhance the environment and opportunities in Ellesmere Port. We have a Trust set up with the University of Chester and the Countess of Chester Hospital Trust but it is in a dormant state at the moment.

Brief outlines of these are summarised below – recent activities only:

Community art and environment support

Students have worked with Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership to enhance the appearance of Little Sutton Station by providing photographic art work to link with the remembrance of the first world war. Large posters of student work are on display on the platform.

Students have worked with Ellesmere Port Development Board and Our Place to produce photographic examples of work undertaken by students to be displayed on large unused shop fronts on the Station Approach Road. Textiles, design technology and engineering feature heavily.

Students are currently starting to work again with Ellesmere Port Youth Enterprise looking to enhance facilities for teenagers in Ellesmere Port.

Community garden project

Students have recently begun working with neighbours to renovate and extend the use of a former play area into a wildlife park etc.

Junior High

This happens each term. On four successive weeks up to 150 year 5 and 6 students from schools in the area attend a range of courses offered by our staff. It is well subscribed and very popular. It has considerably eased transition to secondary school for the students that attend. (Food and science courses usually fill within twelve hours of the booking forms being emailed to parents). Typical courses are: **Science** CSI, Exploring Flight and Awesome Physics **Technology** Laser cutting, Design and make **ICT** Film making, Website Writing, Computer Animation, Photography **Maths** bridge building, Jaguar maths, computer programming **Other areas** Crafts for Africa, Circus Skills, Boxercise

These lists are not exhaustive – each class has two staff and 16 students.

Academic High

These classes run for three weeks after school on each term. The students from y6 are invited by their primary schools. Blank letters are given and students are issued them by their school based upon excellence in the course area. These courses are always linked to maths, science or English. They will use technological approaches and enhance the learning of students.

Primary Headteacher Breakfast Meetings

These meetings allow us to share information with our immediate learning community. They have been successful in bringing the schools into a good working partnership. The Port Alliance for teacher training developed from meetings and discussions with this group.

Y6/Y7 Moderation Meetings

These meetings take place at least once per term and bring Y6 and Y7 staff together to moderate work within English (half day) and Mathematics (half day). The meetings are held at The Whitby High School and brings together Y6 staff from at least five primary schools (Woodlands, Whitby Heath, Meadow, Christchurch and William Stockton) and Y7 staff from The Whitby High School to moderate work.

Headteacher Cluster Group

The Whitby High School is part of a four school cluster that meet monthly to support collaborative work between the schools. The four schools involve are of similar size and type and at present are all judged as good by Ofsted. Collaborative work includes pastoral work, peer support and coaching, joint curriculum work and developing additional provision in the area. At present this includes the development of a bid to open an **AP Free School** in the area.

Evening opportunities at The Whitby High School

The school is used by the community extensively in the evenings. Halls, rooms and gymnasiums are booked between the hours of 6pm and 10pm and the school is often used at weekends for large netball tournaments. The main usage is for Choir, Archery, Basketball, Cricket, Netball, Slimming Clubs, holiday clubs, volleyball, fitness and wellbeing, Drama. WE also host regional and national netball tournaments.

International Links and twinning

The school has now developed many active links with schools around the world which is documented elsewhere however, in addition the school still works closely with the German town of Reutlingen which is twinned with Ellesmere Port.