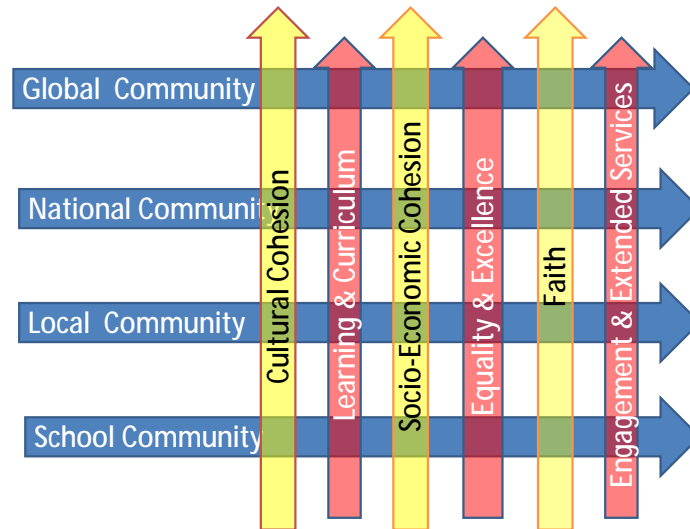


Cams Community Club – Governors’ Report March 2010



This diagram may be a rather usual way to introduce the **Cams Community Club** – but this grid illustrates the way in which schools are required to address the needs of the wider community. By September 2010 all schools in the UK will become **extended schools**; responsible for providing access to a range of service for children, their families and the wider community. As part of this ‘core offer of extended services’ it has been recognised that schools are perfectly placed to act as hubs for the local community, and in a perfect position to offer a range of activities before, during and beyond the traditional school day, engaging with their local community and connecting local people with local services.

Understandably you may question how this is relevant to the teaching and learning that takes place in a school. Surely that’s what schools are for?

Nowadays, young people need to emerge from school not only well educated and able to enjoy a productive life as a member of our society, but also as healthy, adaptable, creative individuals, prepared to compete effectively in the global economy. The rapid pace of change in modern society is transforming the role of schools; therefore in addition to their traditional role for education, schools are taking increasing responsibility for securing the well-being of children, young people and their families and helping to build stronger, sustainable communities in which they live. Perhaps it is worth bearing in mind that you can drive only a few miles in either direction and find young people living in the multi-race and multi-faith cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. Without doubt, these young people have a very different concept of ‘community cohesion’ than our students at Cams Hill.

As you may be aware, for the older citizens in our community, the **perception** of crime far outweighs the actual crime that takes place – in fact, from recent Police Data and Fareham Place Survey (2009) this is a relatively happy and safe place to live. But the numbers of retired adults living in our area is fast outstripping the amount of children being born, so we must address that there may be **potential** boiling pot for community disharmony between these two generations; particularly when our young people are being portrayed unfairly in the media as knife yielding, hoody-wearing, swearing, binge drinking thugs.



Cams Community Club is a perfect showcase of how schools are being asked to work in partnership with their non-education partners and open the doors to the local community. We are very thankful for the huge amount of support we have received from Fareham Borough Council, and for the external funding from Hampshire County Council and Age Concern to make this possible.

To date (October 2009 – March 2010) we have **66** members signed up for the following activities during the school week:

Singing Club, Nordic Walking (*until the end of March 2010), Digital Photography and Basic Computer Skills (with Miss Exton), Chairbics, Tai Chi & Art classes (with Mrs Hiron)

Our development target is to have **100** members signed up to the club by the end of the summer term. Reaching our target is now looking very promising, with 22 people already on our waiting list to run a second Tai Chi class. We shall also be starting a “Book Club” and “Cooking for Pleasure” courses in the summer term. Advertising the CCC via a single flyer is being finalised at the present time and hopefully you will see flyers popping up in local community centres, libraries and the FBC community notice boards over the next couple of weeks. I think we can confidently say that the Cams Community Club is growing at a healthy rate and offering a rich and varied programme of affordable activities for the older generation.

Members of Cams Community Club are also being encouraged to drop in and use the excellent Dining Room facilities at Cams Hill School during the day. Their welcome pack includes a menu and price list to advertise this facility. Some of our groups now plan to meet for a shared lunch following their session time, providing a little sea of calm in the Dining Hall amongst a m  le of hungry students. This means that many new friendships have been formed between club members over a plate of Spaghetti Bolognese. The Catering team have been very accommodating and welcoming to our older students at the school and should be highly praised for their patience during the early days (when we almost had to ‘heard’ our club members into the Dining Hall for tea and a slice of cake).

Preventing social isolation and maintaining the health and well-being of our older population is a key aspect to the club and one of our ladies has grown in confidence since joining her Art Class in October that she almost seems to be a new person. We were delighted to hear that she is now our soloist for the Cams Community Singers, and I quote; “I now have a reason to get up in the mornings.”

Safeguarding our students at Cams Hill is obviously paramount, with older citizens dropping into the main school building and sports hall during the school day. Therefore all CCC members who request to join an activity are asked to complete a “trace card” with their personal details and provide a form of photo ID on their first visit. Unfortunately this can be a little hit or miss on occasions (as ID gets forgotten and glasses left at home) but this happens only occasionally, and fortunately our members have been very receptive to providing this information. As with any system, we are getting more efficient with record keeping and things have moved on from our original little red record box in the Reception area. Over the coming months we shall see Cams Community Club members recorded on a database and included on the School’s ‘Group Call’ system to increase our efficiency at sharing important information (such as school closure days & staff sickness). We are also looking at membership card/name badges to encourage a feeling of club ownership.

We have many more plans for developing the club over the next academic year, including more fitness sessions and well-being classes for our older citizens (such as circuit training and Pilates), however we are also hoping to explore opportunities where the old and young can enjoy and achieve together, and/or exchange skills. Watch this space with interest!

Susie Higgs, (Cams Hill Parent Governor, Cams & Portchester Partnership ‘CAPP’ Coordinator, Neville Lovett Extended Services Cluster Coordinator (temp) & Fareham L.E.A.P Advantage Subsidy Coordinator)