



# **Extra-Curricular Activities, Trips and Visits Policy**

## **Extra- Curricular Activities, Trips and Visits**

Excelsior Academy offers our students a wide range of activities and opportunities beyond the classroom through an extensive enrichment and extra- curricular programme.

Each of Excelsior Academy's five "small schools" Rainbird Primary, Collingwood School, Hadrian School, Milburn School and Excelsior College have their own individual programmes of extra-curricular and enrichment activities which are published within their own schools. These reflect the interests of staff and pupils within their respective schools and are a valuable means of establishing a sense of identity and belonging.

Our innovative "schools within a school" model continues to offer pupils a wide range of extra -curricular trips, visits and residential opportunities as well as visiting speakers from a variety of professions and backgrounds which are open to pupils and staff across Excelsior Academy. Recent examples include skiing in the French Alps, Trekking to Everest Base Camp, cultural visits to Barcelona and Comenius visits to a variety of European countries. We are also very proud of our growing Combined Services Cadet Force. Excelsior Academy is an active partner in the Speakers for Schools Programme which supports our core purpose of raising aspiration in our pupils.

Excelsior pupils are supported by the generous financial contribution of our sponsor Lord Laidlaw. His vision that all pupils are offered the opportunity to participate in residential visits is one that all staff at Excelsior Academy are encouraged to share. Wherever possible these visits are designed to complement the academic interests and potential of students and foster both personal growth and responsibility. They are used as tools for self- discovery as they allow pupils to learn about what they truly enjoy and are a key means of allowing pupils to discover their desired path in life.

We are very proud of the contribution both extra-curricular sport and performing arts are making to the lives of our pupils and to the reputation of Excelsior Academy. Academy Sports Teams have enjoyed considerable success over the last few years particularly in football, trampolining and athletics. Very high quality performances have also been evident in productions such as Lion King where acting, singing and musical standards have been impressive.

Extra-curricular activities help students gain a variety of experiences in range of areas that will enhance their future. Through participation in sports and performing arts students learn the importance of co-operation, collaboration, and teamwork. It is not unusual for students to discover hidden talents, meet with and mix with others who they might not otherwise encounter and learn about things outside of their own environment and community.

The contribution extra- curricular activities make to our fundamental challenge of raising aspiration within our academy community is epitomised by the fact that many of those represented at the annual Excelsior Academy Awards Evening for their academic achievements and contribution to wider aspects of school life are those who have engaged fully with our programmes of extra -curricular and residential opportunities.