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Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service
Supporting Sustainable Schools

New Curriculum: New Opportunities

As preparations for incorporating the new National Curriculum into the whole school curriculum swing into action, the opportunities for developing learning outside the classroom are strengthened.

In the new National Curriculum for 2014 the scope for bringing learning to life by taking lessons outside the classroom is clear across all the Core subjects:

The importance of understanding and applying mathematical skills and concepts is stressed. What better way to practice estimating and measuring, or collecting data or applying the principles of geometry than by tackling challenges in the school grounds?

In English the development of vocabulary is key to learning, and the importance of appropriate stimulation is crucial to quality writing. What better way to extend vocabulary and provide stimulation for writing tasks than to use a quality educational visit?

In Science, how better to “develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena” than to witness those natural phenomena using first hand learning

experiences in the environment?

The Foundation subjects also of course offer plentiful opportunity for learning outside the classroom, especially in geography, history, art and design, computing and design and technology.

CEES' Annual Conference at Girton College, Cambridge on 22 November offers an opportunity to join workshops designed to share ideas for learning outside the classroom (LOtC) in all the above subjects. With ten innovative workshops to choose from as well as keynote presentations from LOtC champion, Peter Carne OBE, Cambridgeshire's Director of Learning, Keith Grimwade and Cllr Martin Curtis, the day should prove to be a valuable one for all who aspire to bring learning to life with the new curriculum.

Details are at www.cees.org.uk/news/images/CEES_Conference_prospectus_2013.pdf

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SEASONAL SPECIAL OFFERS from CEES at BURWELL HOUSE, WISBECH CASTLE and STIBBINGTON CENTRE

To help teachers cope with the demands of Christmas time in the key stage 1 or 2 classroom, CEES is pleased to offer its "seasonal special" day courses at discounted rates.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Explore a variety of media in our craft workshop and in the grounds of CEES Centres, and return to school with a host of imaginative, decorative Christmas creations inspired by the natural environment.



VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Take part in some traditional Christmas activities and entertainments that children would have experienced in Victorian times, including: Christmassing; Wassailing; Carolling around the Yule log; Making decorations and cards; and Performing a Mummer's play.

Both of the seasonal special day courses above are available from CEES at **Stibbington Centre, Burwell House** and **Wisbech Castle** in **December**.

A discount of £50 is offered, bringing the charge to £245 per class for Cambridgeshire schools and CEES subscribers. Availability is limited, so early booking is advised.

SPRING TERM SPECIAL OFFERS: WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

For added interest in Science lessons during January and February, CEES teachers are available to bring workshops into schools, and a discount of £50 on the usual charge of £350 per full day booking is available. Workshop lengths vary, but up to three sessions could be programmed in one day.

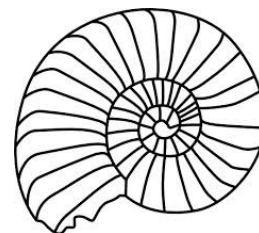


ENERGY MATTERS.

Specialist equipment will be used for Key stage 2 children to have hands-on opportunities to learn about renewable energy technologies, to experiment with solar and wind power kits and to try out their own designs.

INVESTIGATING ROCKS

The importance of rocks and an introduction to rock types will be followed by investigating appearance, texture, hardness and permeability using rock samples and microscopes. The finale will take the form of a "Geology Rocks" song.



LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS professional development day for the whole school staff

CEES offers a tailor-made programme of inspiration for teaching and learning in the school grounds, and bookings are now being taken for training days through to July 2014 as schools prepare for the new National Curriculum.

The programme for this whole school staff professional development opportunity is designed to contribute to **school improvement** by inspiring **high quality teaching and learning in the outdoor environment** at Reception, ks1 and ks2. Subjects covered include English Mathematics, Science, Geography and Art and Design.

The programme, which will be discussed and agreed with the school, involves **practical "hands on"** activities designed to support most curriculum areas and suitable for use in the school grounds.

The day is led by CEES' specialist teachers, at a ratio of one CEES leader per up to 10 participants.

Early booking is advised for popular training dates.

STIBBINGTON CENTRE RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES graded “EXCELLENT” by teachers and children

Continuous improvements to the Centre’s learning programmes, facilities, grounds and catering ensure that residential visitors to Stibbington regularly grade their experience “excellent”.

Recent comments from Heads and teachers include:

“The quality of writing they produced back at school was the best I’ve seen.”

“The whole class benefitted from the expertise of the Centre’s teachers, and all the staff were very welcoming.”

“It was good to see all the improvements that have been made in the Centre and in the grounds since last year.”

“We covered whole chunks of the curriculum far more effectively than we could have done at school, thanks to the super locations for field work, the specialist resources that we don’t have in school and the excellent leadership of the Centre’s teachers.”

“Catering—yum!”

Residential programmes are agreed between the school and the Centre and are designed to support work currently being covered in school. Commonly selected topics include:

Science—Habitats, Minibeasts, Rocks, Food chains

Geography—Rivers, Map skills, Locality study

History—Evacuation, Victorian, Romans, Vikings

Also
English, Maths and Art in the Environment.

Contact Stibbington Centre for details of residential visit availability and charges, and for information about bursaries to support the inclusion of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SITUATIONS VACANT

BOOT BOYS and SCULLERY MAIDS required at WISBECH CASTLE



Full training provided, including:

- All aspects of kitchen work
- Laundry skills
- Cleaning and polishing
- Table laying and napkin folding, and most importantly:
- Servants’ etiquette

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to work in the kitchens, scullery and parlour at the prestigious Wisbech Castle. Applications addressed to Mr Grafton, the Butler, should be directed by teachers to CEES at Stibbington. Person specification: Must be aged 5 to 11 years, training is available for groups of up to 34.



Calling all Celts Recruiting in your area NOW The Roman Empire Needs YOU

Join the AA (Auxiliary Army).
No previous experience required.
Uniform and training provided.
Generous stipendium and pension scheme.

During the first part of our unique Roman Day programme for apprentices to the AA we will challenge you to demonstrate the necessary skills to work for the Roman Empire: team working, marching, counting, measuring, Latin learning, problem solving.

In the afternoon session try your hand at designing a Roman clay tile, writing on wax tablets, and handling artefacts, and become a masterchef by preparing a much loved Roman delicacy; stuffed dormouse or stuffed date (subject to availability).

Trainee Viking sailors are also sought for our new Viking Days.

Applications to attend Roman or Viking Day recruitment sessions at Stibbington Centre or Burwell House should be directed to CEES at Stibbington.

Person specification: Must be aged 7 to 11 years, training is available for groups of up to 34.



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Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, readers should always obtain independent confirmation of any details upon which they wish to rely.

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CEES is part of the Cambridgeshire Outdoors partnership in Cambridgeshire County Council's Children, Families and Adult Services

Date	CEES events, venues and details
Fri 22 Nov	CEES Annual Conference in partnership with Cambridgeshire Outdoors: OPENING THE DOOR TO A NEW CURRICULUM at Girton College Cambridge, 10am—4pm
2—17 Dec	SEASONAL SPECIAL OFFERS for CHRISTMAS CRAFTS and VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DAYS with CEES at Burwell House, Wisbech Castle and Stibbington Centre
From January	Bookings now being taken for whole school staff training days throughout next year on LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
January and February	SPRING TERM SPECIAL OFFERS: ENERGY MATTERS and INVESTIGATING ROCKS workshops in schools
3—4 Feb	Primary Schools ECO COUNCILLORS' CONVENTION A 2-day residential programme at Stibbington Centre for small groups of Y4 to Y6 children from several schools
6 March	Primary Schools GREEN DAY at Stibbington Centre A one-day programme of eco-activities and inspiration for small groups of children from several schools
14—23 March	NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK: How can CEES support your Science activities: Educational visits to CEES Centres? Workshops in schools?
1 — 2 July	LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM a 2-day training course at Stibbington Centre for PGCE students and new teachers

USEFUL WEBLINKS	CEES: www.cees.org.uk
Burwell House: www.burwellhouse.com	Growing Schools:
Carbon Trust: www.carbontrust.com	www.growingschools.org.uk
Eco Schools: www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools	Learning Outside the Classroom: www.lotc.org.uk
Energy Display Meters:	National Association of Field Studies Officers (NAFSO):
www.energydisplaymeter.co.uk	www.nafso.org.uk
Energy Saving trust:	Outdoor Education Adviser, Cambs:
www.energysavingtrust.org.uk	www.cccpccvisits.org.uk
Farming and Countryside Education:	Outdoor Education Centre Heads (AHOEC):
www.face-online.org.uk	www.ahoec.org
Food For Life Partnership:	RSPB:
www.foodforlife.org.uk	www.rspb.org.uk
Green House Project, Huntingdon:	Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd):
www.greenhouseproject.co.uk	www.se-ed.org.uk
Grafham Water Centre:	Wildlife Trusts: www.wildlifetrusts.org
www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk	Wisbech Adventure Playground: www.wisbechadventureplay.net

