



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

DFID Department for
International
Development

**THE RCS IS LAUNCHING AN EXCITING NEW PROJECT
AND WE'D LOVE YOU TO GET INVOLVED...**

**COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH SUMMITS**

1

SO, WHAT ARE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMITS?

Organised by the RCS and funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Commonwealth Youth Summits project is:

a **UNIQUE DEBATE PROGRAMME** which will **BRING TO LIFE KEY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES** such as

POVERTY, HUMAN RIGHTS, CLIMATE CHANGE and **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

for a wide range of **14- TO 16-YEAR OLDS** across the United Kingdom.



“

Imagine you are the Indian Foreign Minister. You have one minute to present your country's perspective on climate change to world leaders from 52 other countries. Later you will have to defend your stance on nuclear weapons and explain how you feel about the Millennium Development Goals.

”

This is a taster of a Commonwealth Youth Summit...



2

WOW... SOUNDS GOOD. TELL ME MORE!

Each Summit is run over two days and brings together 120 young people from 10 different schools and youth groups.

On the first day, participants take part in fun, thought-provoking activities to explore the modern Commonwealth and the challenges facing its diverse member countries.

Students will explore topics like development, the environment, human rights and peacebuilding, considering how they relate to their local community, to the UK and to other countries around the world.

In preparation for the next day's debate, they will also learn about negotiating processes and practice public speaking.

On the second day, participants take part in a mock 'Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting' (CHOGM).

Every two years, Commonwealth leaders meet to discuss world issues, and to agree collective policies and initiatives.

Playing the roles of Commonwealth leaders or foreign ministers, the young delegates will debate real-life scenarios and work together to decide on an action plan.





A student media team will also work with local journalists to report on the debate, interview the participants and draft a final communiqué, or report. This communiqué will be passed on to the (real!) Commonwealth Secretary-General and to the local Mayor and MP.

In addition, at each of the regional events, participants will select 15 delegates to take their views forward to the annual National Youth Summit in London.

Exciting stimulus materials will be provided to teachers and pupils before the event. Teacher packs with ideas for follow-up work, and guidance on how schools can hold their own Youth Summits will also be available.



3 WHO ARE THE SUMMITS FOR?

The Youth Summits are designed for Year 10 and 11 pupils. The RCS will work with Local Authorities, and directly with local youth and faith groups and schools in each region. We are actively seeking to reach a broad range of communities and to work with schools from the state and private sector.

One of the most positive aspects of the project is that it brings together groups of diverse young people and, in the process, highlights the commonalities which unite them.





WHERE WILL THE SUMMITS BE?

Each year, four regional Summits will be held in different cities across the UK, involving around 120 pupils from each area.

In addition, every year, 60 young people from across the country will travel to London for the National Youth Summit.



5 WHEN WILL THE SUMMMITS BE?



The project will run for an initial three year period, with the first round of Commonwealth Youth Summits provisionally scheduled for early 2010.

6 WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?



The Youth Summits are an excellent way of supporting the delivery of cross-curricular citizenship education at Key Stage 4. Recent OFSTED reports have highlighted the lack of active learning opportunities presented to students as part of their citizenship courses.

Commonwealth Youth Summits encourage students to celebrate diversity, and learn about their social and moral responsibilities as local and global citizens. By demonstrating how the decisions of people in one country can affect the lives of those in another, the Youth Summits are an effective means of increasing young peoples' understanding of global interdependence.



THE SUMMITS
ALSO HELP STUDENTS
DEVELOP **POLITICAL**
LITERACY AND LEARN
VALUABLE **NEGOTIATION**
AND **COMMUNICATION**
SKILLS - **USEFUL!**

7 WHO ARE THE SUMMITS ORGANISED BY?



At every stage, an experienced team from the RCS will supervise the delivery and smooth running of the programme.

The RCS is an international educational charity. Working to inspire and engage young people, they encourage young people to develop their skills, to realise their ambitions and, with an increased awareness of their role as global citizens, to engage with key challenges facing the international community.

Founded in 1868, the RCS runs a whole range of projects from high-profile public debates and young film-maker awards to the Commonwealth Essay Competition and an international Youth Leadership Programme.

See www.thercs.org/society for more information.



We are actively seeking new partners for this project and would be delighted to work with you.

To discuss the Commonwealth Youth Summits further, please get in touch with **CLAIRE ANHOLT**, the RCS Youth Programmes Manager, on **020 7766 902** or email: youthsummits@thercs.org.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

25 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP

Registered Charity Number: 226748

Web: www.thercs.org • Email: youthsummits@thercs.org

Tel: +44 (0)20 7766 9202 • Fax: +44 (0)20 7930 9705



“

THIS IS A FANTASTIC PROGRAMME – INTERACTIVE, CHALLENGING AND FUN... BUT ALSO A GREAT WAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO GET TO GRIPS WITH TODAY'S BIG ISSUES.

”

Secondary school teacher, Manchester