



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

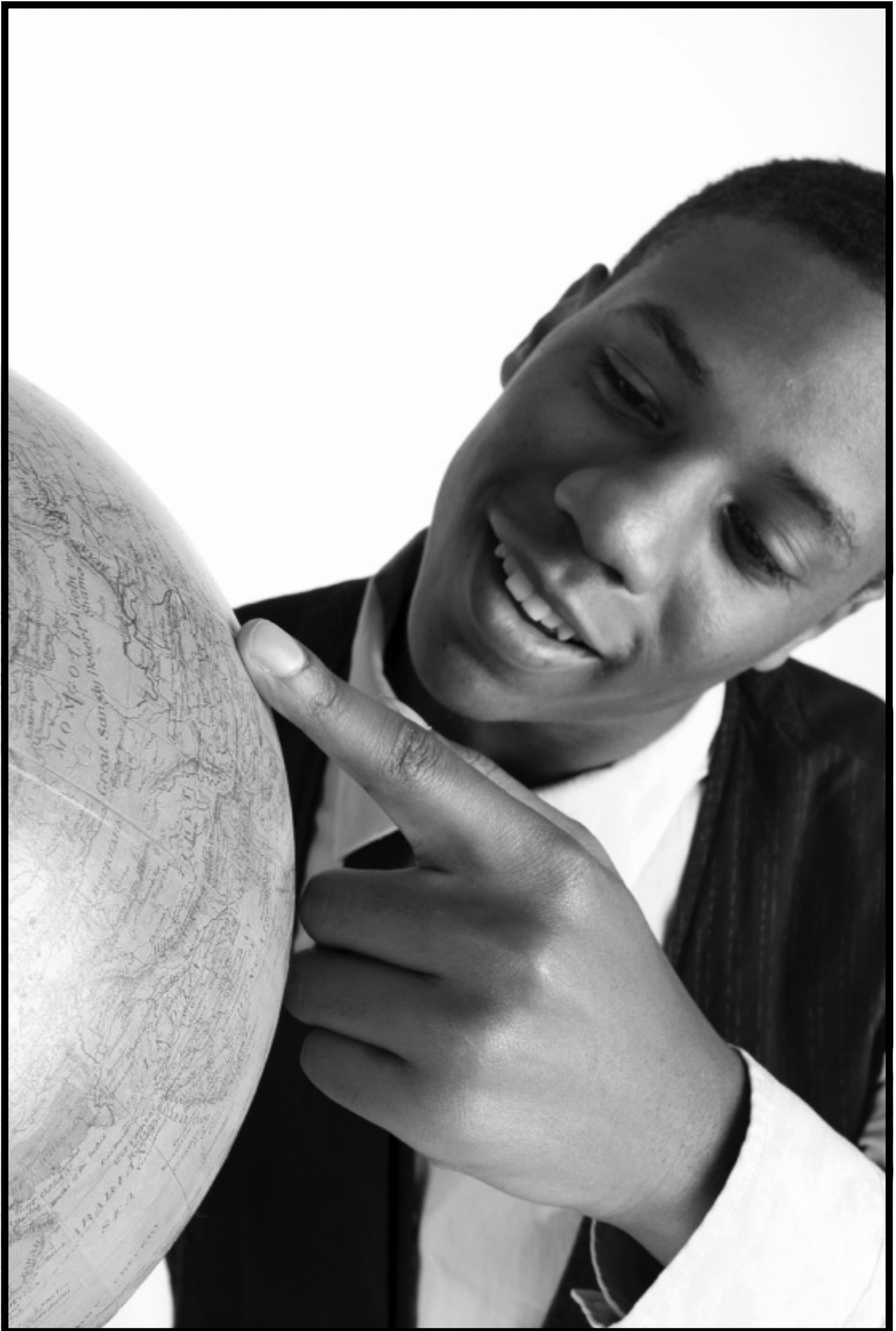
DFID Department for
International
Development

TAKING PART IN THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMITS

A QUICK GUIDE FOR TEACHERS
AND YOUTH GROUP LEADERS

In partnership with

Be Humankind  **Oxfam**



THIS PACK

The pack was produced by Meera Chindooroy and Claire Anholt at the Royal Commonwealth Society in November 2009, and updated in January 2011.

It should answer all of the following questions:

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WHAT IS THE RCS?

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) is an **international educational charity**, based in London. We work throughout the Commonwealth and are particularly focused on empowering young people to become active global citizens. Apart from the UK-wide Commonwealth Youth Summits, we also run international projects: Nkabom (the Commonwealth Youth Leadership Programme) biennially and annual arts competitions for young people, including **the world's biggest and oldest essay competition** for schools.

For more information about our youth programmes, please visit our website:

WWW.THERCS.ORG/YOUTH

WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH?

The Commonwealth is a **voluntary organisation of 54 states** across six continents and oceans. Its members include the smallest islands, such as Tuvalu and Vanuatu, to large industrialised nations like Canada and the UK. All the religions and cultures of the world are represented in the Commonwealth's **2 billion citizens**, and each member state has an equal say. Despite this **diversity**, the Commonwealth is united by its commitment to the principles of democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

1 WHAT ARE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMITS?

A unique debate programme run by the Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) and funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). The project brings to life key international issues such as poverty, education and health for young people across the British Isles.

This year, the focus of the Summits will be Health and Education for All.

Summits will take place in cities all over the country over the course of the next 3 years. 120 young people aged 14-17 will come together from diverse schools and youth groups for each two-day event.

2 WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME?

* FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Summits will give your young people the opportunity to **widen their experience of international issues beyond the classroom**. They will be working in teams to defend the interests of their assigned country and come to understand the varied needs of Commonwealth countries.

You can choose one student from your group who will be assigned to the Media Team. Professional journalists will support the Media Team to report on the Summit's second day, producing newspaper articles or television reports.



Through our **e-pal programme**, young people in the UK will be linked with a young person from the country they are representing, and be able to ask them questions before arriving at the Summit. This will be done through an online forum which the RCS will moderate.

Young people will be **empowered** to take action themselves and to consider what they can do next, making sure that the **outcomes of the Summits are sustained** and long-term.



WE CAN RAISE AWARENESS OF THESE SERIOUS ISSUES, AND HOPEFULLY BECOME A NEW GENERATION OF PEACE BUILDERS, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AND PLANET SAVERS.



ZOE, 17, LONDON

A-level student and Member of the Youth Steering Committee that is helping to plan and deliver the Youth Summits

*** FOR TEACHERS AND YOUTH LEADERS**

At the Summits themselves, we will be running **workshops for teachers and youth leaders**, providing you with some inspiration about teaching global citizenship and the tools you need to use the Youth Summits model in your own school or community. These CPD sessions will be run with the support of Oxfam.

*** CURRICULUM LINKS**

The Youth Summits programme has been developed with the **Key Stage 4** curriculum in mind, in particular the statutory requirements for **Citizenship** and **English**, but also having links with **Geography, Politics** and **History**. Each Youth Summit will also have a **student Media Team** reporting on the events.

The programme will also fulfil aspects of the Cross-Curricular Dimensions, in particular the **Global Dimension and Sustainable Development, Creativity and Critical Thinking** and **Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)**.

The **key Citizenship learnings** will be: 1.1 Democracy and Justice; 1.2 Rights and responsibilities; 1.3 Identities and diversity; 2.1 Critical thinking and enquiry.

The **key English learnings** will be: 1.1 Competence; 1.2 Creativity; 1.3 Critical understanding; Speaking and Listening.



You can download more detailed curriculum links from the Teachers' section of our Youth Summits website at www.thercs.org/youth/summitresources.

* COMMUNITY COHESION

Section 5 of the **Ofsted** guidance on schools inspection requires schools in England to work to **promote community cohesion**.

The Youth Summits programme will promote community cohesion at **local, national and international levels**. At the regional Summits, students will be required to work cooperatively with other **young people from other schools and youth groups** on both days. The **National Summit in London will bring together students from four diverse regions** of the British Isles annually to come to a consensus on the issues which are most important to them. The **preparation and debates** themselves will encourage students to think globally, to put themselves in the shoes of others and to foster a sense of global citizenship.

Our programme has been developed with the support of **Oxfam** and **Steering Committees** made up of teachers, youth leaders and young people.



ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT IS THAT IT BRINGS TOGETHER DIVERSE GROUPS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND, IN THE PROCESS, HIGHLIGHTS THE COMMONALITIES WHICH UNITE THEM. THE SUMMITS ARE PERFECT FOR MEETING OUR COMMUNITY COHESION OBJECTIVES.



SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, DEVON



3 WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE SUMMITS?

Each day of the Summit will be run during school hours.

* DAY 1

The first day will involve **four fun and interactive workshops**, expanding young people's knowledge of the Commonwealth and global issues, and getting to know one another, while boosting their confidence in voicing their views.

Each workshop will last approximately 50 minutes and students will rotate around them during the day. The workshops will be run by our team of young, volunteer facilitators, who we have trained – with the support of Oxfam and the Commonwealth Secretariat – and provided with lesson plans. Our facilitators are aged between 18 and 25 and represent 9 different Commonwealth countries. They have a range of experiences which will help them to deliver the workshops effectively.

The four workshops will be based on:

- The Commonwealth and the Millennium Development Goals
- Education for All
- Health for All
- Youth voice and building confidence in speaking out

The activities set out in the Lesson Plan pack and the Student Activity Book will provide young people with a basic understanding of the issues, which will be developed further in the workshops.

* DAY 2

On the second day, we will hold a **mock Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting**. A range of Commonwealth countries will be represented, with participants playing the roles of Prime Ministers, Presidents, Foreign Ministers and journalists. Developing political literacy and public speaking skills, they will explore today's big international issues and the idea of global interdependence.

Two debates will be held "in role" and a **third debate will allow the participants to come out of role** and debate the issues which are important to them.

By the end of each Summit, the students will have agreed a **Communiqué detailing their decisions and outcomes, which will be presented to local leaders and the (real!) Commonwealth Secretary-General**.

There will also be a Media Team, who will work with professional journalists to report on the Summit and produce newspaper articles and television news reports.

The RCS is pleased to be working with Oxfam in delivering the Youth Summits, as well as with local councils and other regional partners.

We will email you a final programme for your regional Summit closer to the time.

4 DO WE NEED TO PAY FOR ANYTHING?

The RCS and our regional partners have endeavoured to ensure that schools and youth groups do not incur additional costs in taking part in the Summit. However, unfortunately, we are unable to arrange or pay for transport to and from the Summit. You may also be asked to arrange for your young people to bring packed lunches for one or both days; this will be detailed in the regional logistics information, which is being sent separately.

5 HOW SHOULD WE PREPARE FOR THE SUMMIT?

Enclosed along with this booklet is a **pack of resources** to help prepare your students for the Summit. You should receive:

- Teachers' Information Pack (this document)
- Teachers' Lesson Plan Pack
- Student Activity Books (enough for each of your participants, plus one for you to keep)
- Commonwealth Youth Summits DVD
- Additional resources – photo card pack, MDG diamond ranking sheet, maternal health diamond ranking sheet, maternal health news articles
- A confirmation form to be completed and sent back to the RCS as soon as possible

1. SELECT YOUR PARTICIPANTS

The first thing to do is to select your students and send their names and roles to the RCS on the form enclosed. We have assigned your school certain countries to represent and a Media Team position. It is up to you which students you allocate which role, but there should be at least two students for each country, allowing them to prepare together. The Media Team student can work with any of the other teams as they wish.

! If you have to change your participants at a later date, please get in touch with us as soon as possible at youthsummits@thercs.org or by telephone at 020 7766 9200.

2. COMPLETE THE QUICK ONLINE PRE-SUMMIT QUESTIONNAIRE

When you have selected your participants, please direct them to www.thercs.org/youth/questionnaire and ask them to complete the online questionnaire. This is for our monitoring of the programme, in order to assess students' levels of knowledge before and after attendance. We will be giving them another questionnaire at the end of the Summit.



3. RUN THE PREPARATORY LESSONS

We ask that you support your students by running **four half hour sessions** with them on: the Commonwealth, the Millennium Development Goals, Health and Education. As we will also be holding workshops on these topics on the first day of the Summit, these activities will provide students with a short introduction to the kinds of issues they will be considering at the event, **encouraging them to think critically and to engage fully with the issues.**

The Pre-Summit sessions can be condensed or expanded according to your requirements.

The Students' Activity Book also provides further guidance for them in researching their country and having confidence in speaking out at the Summit. Short homework assignments are set out.

6 WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR REGIONAL SUMMIT?

We will be sending information by e-mail about the particular arrangements for each regional Summit in the next few weeks. If you are concerned that you have not received this, please get in touch with us at youthsummits@thercs.org.

Remember that all the regional Summits will be run during normal school hours.

7 WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE REGIONAL SUMMIT?

In schools, we ask that your students give **one assembly** – either to their Year or to the whole school – following their attendance. We will be giving further guidance on this at the CPD sessions during the Summit.

In April, we will be holding a National Commonwealth Youth Summit in London. One or two participants from each school will attend and represent their region. They will have the opportunity to meet other young people from around the British Isles, to take their ideas forward to leaders from the Commonwealth and the UK Government and to develop their skills in influencing leaders.

More details about the National Summit will be emailed to you in due course.



2011 TIMELINE

**JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2011**

Schools receive Pre-Summit Packs – Teachers’ Information Pack, Teachers’ Lesson Plans, Student Activity Books, DVD, further resources

Names of participants to be finalised and sent to the RCS

All participants to complete the online Pre-Summit Questionnaire at www.thercs.org/questionnaire

**JANUARY-
MARCH 2011**

Pre-Summit supervised sessions to be run in school
Participants to complete independent research on their countries

21-22 FEBRUARY

Glasgow Commonwealth Youth Summit

10-11 MARCH

Cardiff Commonwealth Youth Summit

17-18 MARCH

Cambridge Commonwealth Youth Summit

24-25 MARCH

Oxford Commonwealth Youth Summit

MARCH/APRIL

Participants to give an assembly on their experience in school

19-20 APRIL

National Youth Summit takes place in London

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact **Meera Chindooroy** or **Mary Greer** in the Youth Programmes Team:

E-MAIL: YOUTHSUMMITS@THERCS.ORG OR TEL: 020 7766 9236

WEB: WWW.THERCS.ORG/YOUTH

WE HOPE
TO MEET
YOU
SOON!

YOUR NOTES





COMMONWEALTH YOUTH SUMMITS

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