



## New College Stamford Highly commended – Social Responsibility

*“Making social responsibility second nature”*

### Summary

New College Stamford (NCS) has been building upon and making continuous improvements to our Environmental Policy, and recently established an Environmental and Sustainability strategy with high emphasis placed on social responsibility. NCS is committed to building upon that good practice by making the principles of Sustainable Development an integral aspect of the college strategy and operations for the future.

### Project partners

- Our collaborative partnerships with schools and communities are vital in maintaining sustainability awareness throughout college life. At NCS we believe that working with other agencies enriches our sustainability and social responsibility curriculum offer.
- We have forged partnerships with external stakeholders including community and voluntary groups, NGOs, national and local government and public sector bodies, and local social enterprise groups.
- At the international level we have worked with Divine chocolate, Transition Towns and United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

### The problem

Our Environment Team works with students, staff, and the wider community, delivering a range of environmental and social awareness projects to influence positively student behaviour as an integral part of their experience at NCS. Our projects are unique, having positive impact from the global to the local scale; from preschool into retirement, and our recent Ofsted inspection demonstrates the importance attached to this ethos.

### The approach

Our strategy takes a long term approach to sustainability, social justice and enhancing the student experience through embedding into whole college activities. With support from senior management to develop multi partner activities at both national and international level, we are taking a visionary and sustainable role to remain proactive in supporting our college and the wider community of Stamford.

### Our goals

- Empower the student body to take action in both the college environment and local community
- Ensure sustainability and social responsibility are embedded into curricula at all levels
- Recognise both the positive and negative impacts NCS has on the community
- Enrich the sustainability and social curriculum through forging partnerships with a diverse range of external stakeholders
- Provide opportunities for learners to take on additional roles and responsibilities, both within the college and in the local community

### Profile

Based in the rural market town of Stamford, New College Stamford is anything but a small rural college. Thanks to our huge range of courses and high standards we take students from the ages of 14 – 16, post 16 study through to degree level education.

- 1800 FTE students
- 350 Staff



## Obstacles and solutions

On a budget of less than £2000, wide ranging projects are delivered, using the creativity and practical know how of staff, students and 'partners', demonstrating the importance of operating in a sustainable manner and ensuring this ethos is continued into the next generation.

## Performance and results

Interest in our activities from similar institutions has been impressive. Ofsted inspectors recently commended the enthusiasm and ability of students participating in many community activities "Often improving the public's understanding of their abilities through their contributions".

The report highlights extensive opportunities for learners to take on additional roles and responsibilities both within the college and in the local community, and that their knowledge of sustainability is good "Learners take part successfully in many community activities; often improving the general public's understanding of their abilities through useful contributions they make to these events".

## Lessons learned

Colleges have an important role in social responsibility; they are responsible for the development and learning of the next generation of citizens who are an important part of the local community. While NCS is a small college, our commitment to sustainable learning provision is, we believe, of real importance to the sector, and particularly significant to other small institutions and those working to a very limited budget.

Adopting sustainability is an important option. Unless we embrace it as part of our long term strategic planning to deliver the options on the ground, the future may be very different.

## Further information

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