

New College Leicester



Arts & Culture Strategy 2018 – 2023
Where you succeed

Contents

Page	
03	Foreward
04	Executive Summary
06	The Cultural Landscape
08	Local area context
09	Delivering the Strategy
10	Priority 1: Engaging our students
11	Priority 2 Engaging our community
12	Priority 3: Engaging with cultural providers, practitioners and professionals
13	Priority 4: Developing the workforce
14	Priority 5: Developing sustainable facilities
15	Conclusion

Foreward

A 'Rounded Education' for All Young People While teaching and learning remain our core business, we recognise that the efficacy of any young person's journey through education is measured not only through successful examination outcomes, but also by other key determinants for a healthy and fulfilling life. We want our students, and our community, to be mentally and physically health literate; to be civically engaged in their local community and beyond and to secure meaningful work so that they may enjoy the benefits and freedoms associated with employment and economic independence. Our vision for success therefore is driven by four key intersecting strategies which places our young people and our community at the heart of our decision-making process and at the centre of the systems we have created:

- Our **Teaching and Learning strategy** ensures that all our young people are fully challenged and engaged in an education that prepares them all for the 21st Century;
- Our **Arts and Culture strategy** develops vital life skills such as creativity, critical understanding, empathy and collaboration – all important for building resilient individuals and communities who believe that anything is possible;
- Our **Sports and Physical Activity strategy** ensures that every student has access to first class sports facilities and physical and health education - an offer which extends to the wider community;
- Our **Health and Wellbeing strategy** ensures that every member of the school community has the knowledge, tools and confidence to take care of their own health and wellbeing and to encourage those around them to do the same.

Why an Arts and Culture strategy? We believe that all cultural activity is fundamentally linked to people's wellbeing, identity, confidence, self-esteem, joy and pleasure. It contributes to learning effectively, staying healthy and improving mental wellbeing. Cultural activity helps communities to grow together, understand each other and discover shared experiences. It helps local areas to develop a sense of belonging. The vitality which comes from having people from different heritages and cultures living and working together is expressed every day in Leicester through a wide range of activities – such as art, libraries, music, architecture, heritage, commerce, fashion, retail, festivals and food.

The development of this Arts and Culture strategy is only the start of our journey. This strategy is not just a plan for students at the college, but a plan for the communities in the west of Leicester and potentially further afield. It is our intention to work with others to create access to cultural entitlement in the west of Leicester, to rebalance the inequalities faced by the community, and to allow our students to excel. The intention is for the strategy to extend the reach of influence beyond the college gates, to allow the college to be a home for cultural activities in the area. This strategy is the foundation for change and a demonstration of the colleges' commitment to the arts and culture. We will adapt to national change over time and ensure that the college is well placed to benefit from future opportunities.

This strategy will strive to engage the public through the discovery of the unknown and the unimagined. It will encourage innovation to engage the public, and push the boundaries of how culture can be experienced. We want to give a sense of wonder and to take students to places that they never knew existed. Students, staff, parents and all stakeholders should understand the past, imagine the future, and hunger for further knowledge to drive excellence.

We hope that you will join us on this exciting journey.

Jane Brown, Principal

Executive Summary

New College Leicester is a culturally diverse school, at the heart of its community, with a mission of developing well-rounded, resilient young people who will successfully contribute to a global society.

The college prides itself on its innovative approach to partnership working and the new Arts and Culture Partnership group is an example of this.

In developing this strategy, the college has acknowledged the link between cultural participation, health and wellbeing, economic regeneration, and the provision of enhanced opportunities for the students and the local community. The publication of this strategy is a demonstration of the colleges' belief that the arts and culture are central to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for the students and our community. It is not the words, but what is actually being delivered through the strategy which will make the difference.

Leicester in recent years, has experienced investment in its cultural infrastructure, which is now returning significant benefits and delivering good outcomes for the city. With this investment and economic growth comes the need for a skilled workforce, and we believe that New College Leicester will be well placed to support the upskilling of that workforce.

The college is keen to adopt an asset based community development approach which places people at the centre of the strategy. We wish to sustain New College Leicester's role in the regeneration of New Parks and further develop its role within an adaptable yet robust framework for cultural investment. Such continued investment will not only enable the college to widen access to high quality facilities for the local community, but will also provide the city with additional venues for high quality events and performances.

Competing in a global economy, where cultural tourism is estimated to account for 37% of all tourism, our commitment to enhancing the college's cultural infrastructure and events programme will assist Leicester in achieving a strong and unique position in the regional market.

This strategy recognises the college's key arts and cultural priorities and sets out a vision for delivering the college's social and economic aims and objectives through culture. It will continue to evolve as we engage with key stakeholders and local communities, promoting a broader, more inclusive view of culture. Some of the stakeholders already consulted include:

- Arts & Culture Partnership
- Leicester City Council
- Arts Council England
- Cultural Organisations
- Community Groups
- Young People



Cultural Landscape

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is a non-departmental public body of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Arts Council England is a government-funded body dedicated to promoting the performing, visual and literary arts in England. Since 1994, Arts Council England has been responsible for distributing lottery funding. This investment has helped to transform the building stock of arts organisations and to create lots of additional high quality arts activity.



Arts Councils five goals for arts and culture

- Goal 1: Excellence
- Goal 2: For everyone
- Goal 3: Resilience and sustainability
- Goal 4: Diversity and skills
- Goal 5: Children and young people



The Mighty Creatives



The Mighty Creatives is a charity that believes that access to play, creativity and culture is vital, significantly affecting how children and young people do at school, their health, and their life chances.

The Mighty Creatives promotes, secures and designs high quality change which has children and young people's creative voice at its heart. They apply tools, methods and networks that can secure change at scale, change which can be evaluated.

The Mighty Creatives Vision:

Improving the lives of children and young people through creative and cultural education.

Priorities:

- Early Years
- Disadvantaged Children
- Children & Young People learning English as an additional language
- Children with Special Educational Needs



Cultural Education Partnerships

Cultural Education Partnerships are designed in response to Arts Council England's Cultural Education Challenge. Through a co-ordinated, data-driven and strategic approach, CEPs can address inequality of opportunity in children and young people's access to cultural education.

The City Classroom

The City Classroom is Leicester/shire's Cultural Education Partnership. Promoting the City and County's cultural education offer whilst also developing and delivering a place-based, high-quality, Arts Award driven cultural curriculum for all Primary Education and children with SEND.

Securing Investment in 2016/17 Moving Together collaborated with schools and De Montfort University to deliver an exciting programme of dance activities for young people aged 5-18. Using Arts Award as a framework to engage enabling Leicestershire's children and young people to be inspired through dance, developing their creativity whilst increasing their physical health and wellbeing.

The Spark Arts for Children are working with 12 schools in the City to further enhance cultural education and promote Artsmark and Arts Award through 'Spark Plus', encouraging schools to engage deeply and meaningfully with an extended programme of activity supported by The Spark Festival.



Local Area Context

New College Leicester is in the ward of New Parks which is situated to the west of Leicester. It has a population of 17,128 and the average age of the population in the New Parks ward is 36.1 years. The ethnic composition of the ward is predominately White British (91.5%) and there are 3,541 Local Authority homes in New Parks.

While Leicester is a vibrant, culturally well developed and cosmopolitan city with a strong cultural infrastructure, the ward of New Parks remains one of stark contrasts. Many citizens in New Parks are not yet benefiting directly from the city's growth and opportunities, both socially and economically, with 41.09% of residents in New Parks being economically inactive. There are 33% of households with children who have no adult in employment and 15% of households in New Parks contain a lone parent with dependent children, higher than the city average of 9.8%.

Health indicators remain poor in New Parks compared to the rest of the city and the UK, with the life expectancy for men being 75.4 and for women 80.4 which is considerably lower than the national average.

New Parks is deemed to be one of the most deprived wards in Leicester with an estimated 2160 children living within the definition of poverty. In the past it has been perceived as the 'forgotten estate' as some consider it to have lacked external investment. These factors create significant challenges when developing our interventions to deliver cultural initiatives.

To tackle some of these inequalities we need to develop a whole system approach to create a clear strategy, linked to key actions which will focus on how all of our students and New Parks residents can benefit from the city's cultural wealth. We must involve a range of key partners from the public, private and third sectors in its implementation if we are to be successful in achieving our vision.

Delivering the Strategy

Values ► Purpose ► Vision ► Priorities

The delivery of this strategy requires a collaborative, whole system approach, with people placed at its centre. Internally it requires effective faculties management and a drive for change led by the college's management. A lead Governor and member of Senior Leadership Team have been identified as key drivers in the delivery of this strategy. Through the Arts and Culture Partnership group we will engage a wide variety of partners from the public sector, private sector and third sector to support and challenge us on this journey.

Values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Resourcefulness

Purpose: To work in partnership to raise attainment, achievement and aspirations of the students and the local community through outstanding cultural opportunities

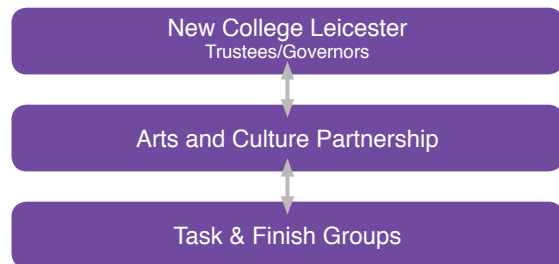
Vision: To be a Centre of Artistic and Cultural Excellence

Priorities:

- 1) Engaging our students
- 2) Engaging our community
- 3) Engaging with cultural providers, practitioners and professionals
- 4) Developing the workforce
- 5) Developing sustainable facilities

To accompany this strategy, a delivery plan will be produced and reviewed on a termly basis. The strategy and delivery plan will complement the wider strategy for culture currently in operation in Leicester City.

Various task and finish groups will then drive the diverse cultural initiatives to successfully deliver this strategy. The Arts and Culture Partnership group will report all progress to the Governors and to the Trustees.



Priority 1: Engaging our students

New College Leicester seeks to build the cultural capital of our students as part of our whole-child, well-rounded educational philosophy. We strive to re-balance the inequalities faced by the children of west Leicester.

It is our ambition to offer students the opportunity to become involved in a diverse range of artistic or cultural opportunities to allow them to dream of what is possible through hard work and determination. The opportunities which will be provided may be delivered either through the formal curriculum or through extra-curricular opportunities.

We believe that the arts and culture offer much more than just the taught curriculum. Our students are able to develop significant life skills which will ensure that they are successful citizens in a global world. At New College Leicester, the formal arts curriculum currently available to all of our students includes drama, music, textiles, dance and art. Students can study a combination of these subjects in greater depth as they progress through the school and it is our ambition to extend this provision into Post 16 study.

To enrich this formal curriculum, we provide extra-curricular opportunities to further deepen knowledge or develop skills. Our students are given the opportunities to work with a range of professionals and will be exposed to excellence in the arts.

Targeted enrichments in each of the curriculum areas, which reflect the diverse culture of the city, allows learners to expand their horizons and explore new ideas.

With our ambition to build a centre of cultural excellence, students must have the opportunities to access a wide range of excellent cultural experiences. They must see and fully experience excellence in the arts.

"There were no opportunities in the area that I went to school or lived in; it was as if we had been completely overlooked by the arts world because we did not live in the most privileged of areas. There is talent everywhere, You cannot participate in something that is not even there." Young People and Arts Engagement 2018 Arts Council England

With students having increased opportunities to engage with the arts and the well-being benefits that will bring, we expect to see improved educational outcomes as a result. It is our ambition that our students will gain outstanding qualifications and will have extremely well-developed skills in a wide range of artistic endeavours to allow them to thrive in the future.

Aims:

- a) To provide a breadth of opportunities to students to engage in cultural and artistic activities
- b) Offer opportunities for students to experience excellence in arts and culture
- c) To achieve outstanding outcomes and qualifications in the arts



Priority 2: Engaging our community

The enhancement of cultural provision within Leicester has not yet been reflected within our local community and through engaging our community we aim to redress this inequity. Our ambition is to enhance the cultural and artistic experience of our local community by providing much greater access to local, national and international arts organisations - by bringing the arts to the community of people who have potentially been left behind. Hosting experiences and culturally significant events at the college will allow the wider community to access the rich diversity of culture which our city now takes for granted.

To fully embed the arts and culture at New College Leicester we aim to be an outreach centre in order to bring the arts into the heart of our community. Our ambition is to facilitate arts professionals to work directly with the local community to establish mutually beneficial partnerships. The area currently has no drama, dance, music or art groups operating in it so therefore it is important to engage local organisations to work with us to create a pathway from the educational environment to ongoing cultural opportunities within the community for children of all ages and abilities. New College Leicester has a wide array of flexible spaces which community groups could potentially take advantage of, and therefore enhance the experiences available to our wider community.

By building a centre of cultural excellence we intend to enhance the engagement of our community through showcases, performances, cultural experiences and exhibitions. Student voice, Arts Ambassadors, Primary Transition Manager and our Arts and Culture Partnership group, will all be key components of driving community engagement with the arts.

We believe that it is crucial that we share our expertise and our space with our immediate educational and wider communities. We will work closely with our neighbouring schools to support them in their artistic and cultural endeavours for all age groups and ability ranges.

To build sustainability, it is essential to be outward facing, delivering extra-curricular activities and to build these with local schools and local arts organisations to develop a solid transition from primary school through to further and higher education.

This aim will only be achieved through exploring alternative sources of non-grant income to create sustainable change.



Aims:

- a) To provide a breadth of opportunities for the local community, local schools and parents to engage in cultural and artistic activities
- b) To establish long-term collaborations between the local community and arts and culture organisations
- c) To engage the wider community in shaping the arts and culture provision

Priority 3: Engaging with cultural providers, practitioners and professionals

Our young people live in one of the most deprived areas in the city and have little, or limited, access to high quality cultural and artistic experiences. By working in partnership with local arts organisations we have a realistic opportunity to redress this inherent injustice. Arts and culture provision has the ability to transform the lives of our young people, their families and the wider community by bringing them hope, raising their aspirations and developing their resilience.

To nurture the talent of our students, as well as the talent within our community, and to enable progression into the arts world, we need to fully engage with local and national cultural providers, practitioners and professionals. This will mean developing the relationships with partners as well as beginning new ones with a range of organisations and professionals. We will ensure that effective and sustainable relationships are developed which will begin to rebalance the inequality faced in the area.

Cultural opportunities at a local level will be further strengthened through the enhancement of links with the local museums whilst forging new partnerships with further and higher education establishments to expose young people and the local community to high quality, innovative providers.

We will develop links with musicians, comedians, dancers, actors, artists, designers, authors and poets to allow us to be able to offer wider experiences to students as well as the local community. The whole community should be given the opportunities to experience annual activities celebrating and embracing significant cultural anniversaries. Using this strategy, we can potentially bring the heart and vitality back into the lives of our community.

In addition, the site at New College Leicester presents significant opportunities to engage community groups in cultural activities with the preferred model resulting in a number of strong community groups considering New College Leicester as their home.

These factors along with the college's strong community ethos, means that New College Leicester has the ambition to develop as a cultural hub for the west of the city.

Aims:

- a) To work with local organisations to deliver shared objectives for a sustainable cultural provision which contributes positively to the well-being of the people of west Leicester
- b) To provide opportunities to allow community groups and artistic companies to use the facilities to benefit students and the wider community
- c) To develop relationships with community groups and artistic providers to enhance the artistic and cultural education for all our students



Priority 4: Developing the workforce

Delivering this long-term strategy will ensure that we are at the forefront of innovations in arts education with a workforce that is investigating new approaches to creative learning and employing cutting edge technology. Whilst other education providers are reducing or withdrawing funding to the arts, we are seeking to expand our provision and invest in our workforce as we firmly believe in the significant well-being benefits this can bring to our whole community.

The skills and quality of the workforce underpins excellence, inspires creativity, enhances experiences and motivates young people to want to engage further. New College Leicester will enhance the skills of our practitioners, and practitioners in primary schools, through bespoke professional development programmes and opportunities to ensure that all students experience the very best of what an arts education can offer. These opportunities will grow to meet the needs of the local creative sector, local schools, meeting employment opportunities and personal progression, as well as meeting the needs of the New College Leicester students.

As an educator, we have a responsibility to ensure that our young people graduate from New College Leicester with the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to succeed as arts professionals, and to be able to lead the next generation of arts and culture organisations across the country in the future. It is our ambition to develop a performing arts offer in the sixth form by reflecting the diversity of the arts found nationally. New College Leicester will work closely with local and national arts providers to ensure that students are well prepared to face the challenges of this competitive sector.

Changes in the workforce will be driven through the use of rigorous self-evaluation while seeking improvements in performance and governance. We recognise that there may be the need to add to the staffing expertise through employing further arts specialists as this strategy develops.

We intend to align and engage with the Arts Council priorities while continuing to work closely with partner schools to deliver the strategy with long-term impact.

Aims:

- a) To invest in the development of continuous professional development to drive the strategy and to further develop creative learning across the college.
- b) To ensure that the workforce is well prepared for innovations in creative learning
- c) To provide students with the necessary skills and opportunities to allow them to progress into the arts industry or further training



Priority 5: Developing sustainable facilities

In recent years Leicester has benefitted from major investment in, and renewal of, its cultural infrastructure. The people of Leicester now enjoy access to rich and varied cultural facilities and activities in most parts of the city. Unfortunately this is not the case in the west of the city.

However, with the unprecedented scale of financial pressures faced by public services, it is important to be clear about key cultural priorities in order to understand where to invest the stretched resources for shared gain. Key partners need to agree their priorities, align their resources and galvanise others to work towards a shared vision.

Facility development is fundamental to any strategy whether that is developing the usage of the current facility stock, or considering a programme of investment in additional high quality facilities.

Our research shows that spaces linked with the arts in west Leicester need to be systematically developed in order to connect organisations, artists and practitioners with our young people and the community.

The facility development plan includes the desire to enhance the colleges' facilities, making them more suitable for high quality performances. Programming of use for the facilities will be a collaboration between the college, key stakeholders and the community. This unified approach to programming and managing facilities will help to develop sustainable business plans and optimise the cultural development potential.

Aims:

- a) To invest in our facilities to enable high quality arts and cultural opportunities to be effectively delivered
- b) To provide a suitable base for arts and culture activities in west Leicester
- c) To utilise arts and culture income to re-invest in facility development



Conclusion

The two main principles which underpin our commitment to the arts and culture at New College Leicester are Accessibility and Excellence. Our ambition is to create an exciting Arts and Culture strategy for all who work, live and visit the west of Leicester which will enable all members of the community to have the opportunity to take part in, or contribute to, a rich cultural life. This strategy is created in partnership with individuals, artists, cultural organisations and communities across the city.

This strategy will align with, and contribute to, the other strategic priorities of the college – teaching and learning, health and wellbeing, and sports and physical activity. This will define New College Leicester as a diverse and distinct college with creativity, innovation and culture at the heart of everything it does. It will support the long-term development and experience of the students and staff, it will engage the public, it will empower the professionals as well as the wider arts and cultural communities of Leicester.

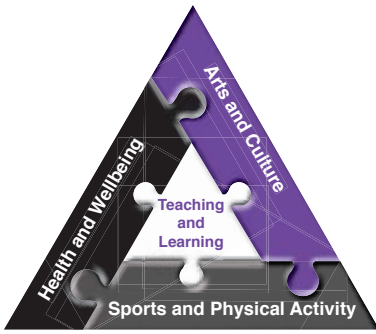
A strategy of this nature will also assist with the difficult challenges some of the arts and culture workforce have to face.

We understand that this strategy will only succeed in its vision with effective leadership and sustained partnerships with arts and culture professionals and organisations. Our ambition is to meet the overall objective of becoming a home of culture for west Leicester. In order for this strategy to be sustainable financially, creatively, culturally and academically we need to facilitate risk taking to develop innovation.

Along the journey, evidence will be collected to demonstrate the impact of excellence and accessibility. Artsmark Platinum will be one of many outcomes of this strategy. We envisage enhanced experiences, increased uptake in creative subjects, students achieving and exceeding the college targets year on year, as well as an increase in the numbers of students progressing into the creative sector.

We strive to be "Where you succeed".





NEW COLLEGE LEICESTER

New College Leicester
Glenfield Rd
Leicester
LE3 6DN

Tel: 0116 231 8500
Fax: 0116 232 2286
Email: enquiries@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk
Web: www.newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

