

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION – PLANNING A WEDDING BANQUET

In preparation for the week long residential at Hampton Court Palace, teachers at The Canterbury High School planned lessons inspired by the history, architecture and context of the Palace. In addition, over the course of the residential, each subject cohort worked on tasks that would contribute to the final evening's grand International Wedding Banquet, in the Hampton Court Palace banqueting hall.

PREMISE:

In the past, English kings and queens used Hampton Court Palace as a venue for marriages between the English and French royal houses.

THE BIGGER PICTURE:

All curriculum subject cohorts work independently on subject-centred tasks, but towards a shared goal: provision of a catered, costumed wedding banquet. This enables students to excel in their individual subjects, but also to work with a common purpose.

LOGISTICS

The day before the Banquet, students vote for a Banquet King and Queen based on criteria agreed beforehand. Students are asked pack a smart outfit for the final night.

On the evening itself, all students and staff sit together to celebrate the week's achievements, creations and products. An important point is that teachers celebrate and play a full part in the evening's entertainment. As an example, there might be:

- Juggling and dancing performers
- French-speaking at the table and by servers
- Speeches and declarations
- Artefacts and objet d'art on tables and walls
- Notices of risk assessments carried out
- Costumes

The whole Banquet is filmed by the Media Studies cohort, which makes a documentary about the residential over the course of the week at Hampton Court Palace.

CURRICULUM FOCUSED TASKS

SUBJECT	LESSON / ACTIVITY IDEAS
Food	Healthy Traditional French-English Experimental...
Art	Menu designs Table decorations Sculptures or paintings Room decorations...
English	Debates on the purpose of / need for marriage in the 21 st Century International marriages / racism / tolerance Writing the bride and groom and best man speeches...
History	Provision of historical facts Background information about the venue Wedding traditions...
Sport	Climbing Fencing Juggling Dancing Archery...
Maths	Budgeting for the celebration Measurements of the room and furniture French / English exchange rate, now and in Henry VIII's time...
Science	Bacteria / keeping food safe Risk assessment...
Media	Filming a documentary about the Banquet...
Textiles / art	Costumes and clothing Tapestries Tableware...
French	Help sheets for guests to speak a bit of French at the table Menu translations Planning a script for the [French] bride

