

Social Activity Policy

Last updated: November 2018 / November 2019 / November 2020 / May 2021/May 22/AUGUST 2022/May 2023

Next review: May 2024

Introduction

WE Bridge Academy ensures that students have appropriate information about and access to social, cultural and sporting events and activities which enhance their experience of studying in the UK.

We are currently looking to publish a Monthly Cardiff Events Guide which will be posted in the student lounge, which highlights free or inexpensive events happening in or around Cardiff. These events fall into the following categories:

Each week separate posters are displayed on the student lounge notice board and around the Academy to provide more detailed information about any activity planned for that week (i.e., meeting time/place, cost, description of the event). Social activities and free events are also posted on social media and our website.

Types of Events

WE Bridge Academy promotes four main types of social activities which include:

- In-Academy Activities. These events are designed to encourage students to practise their English and learn more about British culture.
- Evening Activities. These can include cinema nights, live music events, bowling and meals. These activities are designed to introduce students to British culture and give them an opportunity to practise English with fellow students as well as with local people
- Half day excursions. These include trips to sporting events, parks and local historical sites such as the Museum.
- Full day excursions. These include trips to nearby coastal areas, national parks, villages, towns and cities (i.e., Swansea, Bristol, Oxford, Bath, London). These activities often include guided tours and aim to increase students' social, cultural, and historical knowledge of the UK

These events can either be booked by the academy (i.e., a day trip to Oxford) or suggested by the academy (i.e., a weekly live music night at a local venue). Students are made aware of which activities they must sign up for in advance and which they can simply turn up for. Sign-up sheets for events are kept in reception or they are displayed on the social activities notice board.

Frequency of Events

The social activities programme has a target of at least:

- 1 booked or suggested afternoon activity per week and 1 full-day excursion once a month during off-peak times.

Learning Links

WE Bridge Academy aims to provide social activities that offer real world opportunities and context for the students to practise structures and functional language that has been presented and practised in a more formal classroom environment.

During classes, teachers endeavour to help learners participate more fully in social activities by developing their understanding of cultural-linguistic aspects to English, such as ways to seek clarification and to interrupt others effectively and politely as well as greater understanding of lexical groups that link to upcoming activities, such as architecture theme to a lesson preceding a walking tour of Bath.

Developing study skills that encourage students to notice and use language in social activities is also an important part of lessons. The academy possesses activities and worksheets, developed in-house, that are used to assist students with more specific out of academy social activities such as trips to castles in the area, the law courts, St Fagan's museum and Cardiff museum.