



## Another busy fortnight

Some real highlights to share from last two weeks which I hope you will enjoy and appreciate. Firstly, **I had the honour and privilege to escort one of our prospective Royal Springboard candidates from Year 11 to Sevenoaks School in Kent.** Sevenoaks was voted the best Public School in England last year by the Sunday Times and we could see why; stunning facilities and opportunities at every turn. **Interestingly yet modestly, I could also see a number of parallels with Kelmscott, namely an ambitious curriculum, kind and caring staff and a philosophy to develop the whole person.** All things being well, this won't be our last trip there as we hope to have more opportunities to visit next year.

Sticking with Royal Springboard, **Ms Dalton was invited to attend the launch of the Royal Springboard's impact report on behalf of Kelmscott,** celebrating charities and schools across the country committed to making a difference to all children (one of which is Kelmscott of course!). **Last year's Head Girl Ida made the trip up from Epsom College,** it is pleasing to hear how well she is doing and how much she is enjoying her experience there. **A select group of young people were then chosen to meet HRH The Princess Royal including Ida** – how wonderful.

**We also saw some burgeoning partnerships developing last week with two international companies very keen to come on board and work in partnership with us.** They were very impressed with where we are headed as a school and would like to be part of it. We have some exciting projects planned with them that we hope to be able to share with students and families very soon – **watch this space.**

**A Headteacher visited from another Waltham Forest School last week,** something we try to do regularly as there is always much to learn from other schools when you visit. I am reciprocating his visit next week, something I am looking forward to. **He remarked during his visit, that he was taken aback by the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the corridors and classrooms** as we toured the school something that those of us in school know to be an everyday occurrence. **I do feel a sense of pride though when visitors comment in this way and it vindicates the immense hard work that all staff put in to make this happen.**

A Waltham Forest advisor was back in for his third visit of the school year and we welcomed his positive feedback too. **He has been meeting with different members of staff on each visit and this time focussed on our newly qualified teachers.** It is always very healthy to have a mixture of experienced staff and new blood in schools. We really value the energy and new ideas that new staff bring and this year's cohort are no exception. They have really hit the ground running and are enjoying the challenges of their new role teaching good quality lessons and contributing widely to the school community. **The advisor was impressed with what he saw and heard and it is pleasing to hear that they are enjoying life at Kelmscott.**

**A two minute silence was observed immaculately by students and staff at just before 11 O'Clock on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.** A short message was read out

explaining the history behind the two minutes silence and a reminder about why we have this mark of respect for the fallen. **Many thanks to Mr Revis for leading the poppy appeal in school, we hope to have a figure for the total amount of money raised soon.**

Along with many other staff **I had my second coaching meeting of the year with a Year 11 student who has been allocated as my coachee.** We meet regularly (the programme started four weeks or so ago) to discuss attendance, progress and attainment in lessons as well as work through any challenges that he might be facing at that moment. We also focussed on the forthcoming mock exams; **I am pleased with the progress he is making and look forward to the next meeting.**

**As the Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture reign comes to an end we were pleased to be involved in an installation called 'Forest Uprising'** which will comprise of an urban forest made of scaffolding with voices of Year 7 from all over Waltham Forest. It is the finale event of the Borough of Culture. **We had Diverse Voices working with the students, warming them up and getting the students thinking and responding to questions such as 'do you feel safe in your borough?' , 'what would you change in the world?'** The students involved enjoyed the experience.

**The secondary Headteachers in the Borough met up on Wednesday** to discuss the challenges that our schools face as well as sharing good practice. **Much of the conversation centred on the changes to funding for Special Needs Students, an important matter to say the least.** I would urge parents to read more about this on our website, there is also an opportunity to respond via an online survey if families wish. **Another meeting of the West Walthamstow Partnership Schools** (ourselves, Willowfield, Barncroft, Coppermill and Stoneydown) took place too this week. We were looking ahead and planning our goals for the future. **It was decided that we would have a focus on well-being and good mental health** – more to follow on that later in the year.

Finally **a big well done to Kaya in Year 8 who is competing at the Tang So Do (a form of martial arts) National Championships in Wales this weekend, if he is successful he will go on to represent Great Britain at the Worlds.** I hope our families and community are well, do get in contact if we can be of support to you or your daughters and sons.

**Mr Sam Jones**

November 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

