

## Headteacher's Blog – Another Busy Fortnight - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

I sense that all my posts will begin with, "It's been another busy fortnight here at Kelmscott" and this fortnight is no different. Last week saw our annual tea party that raises money for MacMillan Cancer Support. It was lovely to see so many staff there at the end of a busy week discussing all manner of things whilst enjoying some delicious homemade cakes eaten from vintage crockery.

We also had some feedback last week from Miss Iqbal, one of our English teachers, who is currently on a sabbatical teaching English to children in Pakistan. Her trip started very positively and she was really enjoying her contact with the children in the schools she has visited. Sadly it appears like her trip has been affected by the earthquake there this week. She is safe and well but the area she has visited was affected seriously by the disaster which may curtail her visit. We wish her well and hope that our families here at Kelmscott have not had relations affected by what has happened.

I had a good meeting last week with the other Headteachers from the West Walthamstow Partnership which includes Willowfield, Barncroft, Coppermill and Stoneydown Schools. We have a fantastic relationship with our partner schools and I am looking forward to sharing with you some of the exciting initiatives that we have in store for this year.

It was assembly week this week and the theme was languages as it was the European Day of Languages on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. I did a straw poll of our students and discovered that approximately 70% of them speak at least two languages with many students able to speak three or more. I impressed upon our students how impressive this is and what intelligence they have as well as a fantastic skillset to take in to adult life. I also showcased our fantastic MFL department who are outstanding in all that they do.

Through the assemblies, I also discovered that one of our y11 prefects has taken it upon herself to learn Japanese via apps on her smart phone and YouTube tuition – mightily impressive. She is also one of our Class of 2020 Royal Springboard cohort (more information on the website about this) and she was able to talk about at her crucial interview this week. Five of our students have passed the many tests and challenges to get to interview stage and were somewhat nervous about the interview this week. The initial feedback from the charity is very positive indeed and although there are more challenges to come (not least successful exam results in the summer) we are hopeful that they will be allocated a top boarding school to attend for their Sixth Form studies. A huge well done to all of them for their efforts so far.

One of our playgrounds was out of action this week as students in years 8 and 9 took part in a cycle proficiency scheme. Despite the occasional downpour they all did exceptionally well and impressed the instructors who commented, "What lovely students you have here at Kelmscott." Our football teams were in action this week as well with mixed results. Finally we invited the Globe Players in on Friday afternoon. They performed Inspector Calls to a group of Year 10 and 11 students who were very engaged in the performance. Our GCSE Drama group from y10 were also in attendance and were inspired by the performance too.

One of the key quotes from the play was “We are all members of one body, we are responsible for each other” something that we can buy in to as a school community. The students really enjoyed the performance as it was an abridged version and one student in particular commented that they enjoyed the way the actors would freeze and explain the key scenes and quotes to them – great stuff.

Mr S Jones 30<sup>th</sup> September