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International Pupil Council **Meeting 11: Minutes**

Venue: The Priory Centre

Date: Thursday 6th June 2013

1. Present:

Mr P Browning (Chair & Secretary, Head at Stepney PS), Mr F Mason (IPC Freetown, SL), Mrs K Guthrie (Global Partnerships Coordinator) Cody & Michael (Stepney Primary), Imaduddin & Katie (Pearson Primary), Natalie, Abdul & Shahin (Collingwood), Petra & Aaron (Thoresby Primary), Alex & Milly (Bellfield Primary), Holly, Jamie-Leigh & Dylan (Thorpepark Primary), Louis, Alex, Joel, Rachel, Evie & Natalie (Priory Primary School)

2. Apologies:

The pupils from Winifred Holtby Secondary extended their apologies as they are in the middle of exams at the moment.

Apologies were also received from Sutton Park Primary and Endsleigh Holy Child RC Primary.

3. Mr Francis Mason

Mr Browning was delighted to introduce Mr Francis Mason to the meeting. Mr Mason explained that he used to be head teacher at Conforti School in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The global partnerships in Hull had begun with his school being linked to Sutton Park Primary School in Hull. He now coordinates the global partnership and global citizenship work in Freetown and works with the British Council. Mr Mason believes that global citizenship is all about making people aware of who they are and the world around them. People in SL need to appreciate that when they cut down trees, this has an impact on others around the world. No matter which countries we come from, our actions will affect others on the planet. Mr Mason also expressed how wonderful it was that he could attend this IPC meeting in Hull. Mr Mason and Mr Browning had co-founded the IPC and he has just visited the IPC which has been established in Hastings on the south coast of England. Infact, he had come over to work and meet with the Hastings schools and had spared part of his schedule to visit Mrs Guthrie and the Hull schools.

4. Mrs Guthrie

Mr Browning then introduced Mrs Guthrie, who works for the Traveller Education Service in Hull, but has taken over coordinating the global partnerships work in Hull. She liaises with schools in both countries and organises the resources that are available for schools to borrow.

5. Individual School Activities

Mr Browning invited the IPC councillors from each school to explain what they had been doing internationally.

Thoresby

Petra & Aaron: We have raised funds to send another teacher to Freetown and to have Martin from SL return to our school. We are also continuing the link with the school in Brazil. They have recently had a kaleidoscope week, in which they looked at different countries around the world.

Priory

Louis, Alex, Joel, Rachel, Evie & Natalie. We have been writing to our Pen Pals at our school called Safanatu in Freetown. We took part in World Water Day, which had been arranged by Mrs Guthrie and involved us walking around the school field carrying containers of water to help us think about the children in SL and their daily chores of carrying water.

We asked Mr Mason to explain how this works in Freetown. He told us how children have to go to wells and then bring huge buckets of water back to wash with and to drink from. They can often have to walk one mile! The shortage of water is a major problem in SL.

Stepney

Cody & Michael: As we had reported last time we have been helping a school in Papua New Guinea as well which was established by Stanley Gene is a famous Rugby League player in Hull. Stepney have sent lots of their old school chairs to the country as the school children have been sitting on the floor of their school for lessons. Stepney are also sent some computers over there as well.

Pearson

Imaduddin & Katie: We had a non-uniform day to raise money for Bangladesh, where a building collapsed. Together with Stepney, we also sent money to Francesca, who had visited the last IPC meeting and was undertaking volunteer work in Africa.

Collingwood

Natalie, Abdul & Shahin: We are going to be celebrating International Day on the 5th July. We have also been looking at different cultures, including looking at different clothes people wear and the different food they eat.

Thorpe Park

Holly, Jamie-Leigh & Dylan: We have been helping out our link school, High Tech, in Freetown. We had already been raising money to help them repair part of the school when Freetown suffered a freak hurricane. Mr Mason reported how it had lasted only three minutes, but this was enough for it to cause considerable damage to 500 buildings. At High Tech, the roof had been blown off! We raised £350.

Bellfield

Alex & Milly: We have been writing to our pen pals and a teacher went over there. We also exchanged school uniforms and our year 6s raised money through organising a school fair.

Mr Mason thanked all the IPC councillors and their school mates for the wonderful work that they have been doing.

6. Priory Centre Resources

Mrs Guthrie had put out many resources from the Priory Centre and Mr Mason explained what some of these were. Everyone had a brilliant time trying on the clothing, playing the instruments and exploring some of the more peculiar-looking artefacts. Mrs Guthrie spoke about the multi-coloured washing bowls and that, even though these seemed to be just everyday objects, they were really important for Freetown people.

7. Priorities

IPC councillors asked Mr Mason what were his priorities:

- 1) Mr Mason told us that the use of restorative practices is his main focus at the moment. They are now getting more and more schools using this instead of Corporal Punishment. The British Council and the Government of Sierra Leone are seeing how important this is. There isn't a law stopping corporal punishment and, until RP, teachers hadn't anything else they thought they could successfully use to control behaviour in their classrooms. IPC councillors asked what they could do to help. Mr Mason said that if they wrote letters of support to key people in SL then this would make a difference;
- 2) He said that projects like 'World Water Day' were really important;
- 3) Mr Mason asked that Hull pupils could continue to think about children in Sierra Leone when they have disasters and to try and think about the grief they suffer.

8. Actions

Mrs Guthrie said that this year there had been three themed days across the city, such as World Toilet Day, World Water Day and the Day of the African Child and that the global partnerships group of teachers would be arranging three more days next year.

For our next meeting, the WISE building (which is next to Wilberforce House) have offered to host our IPC meeting

9. Any Other Business

Everyone thanked Mrs Guthrie for hosting the event, for showing us all the centre's resources plus refreshments. We also thanked Mr Mason for attending.

10. Dates & Times of Next Meeting

It was agreed that Mr Browning arrange dates for next year's three meetings. These are therefore:

Thursday 7th November 2013 at the Wise Building

Thursday 28th February 2014

Thursday 5th June 2014