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International Pupil Council **Meeting Agenda**

Venue: WISE building
Chaired by Mrs K. Hindson

Date: Thursday 7th November 2013

1. Packed lunch at 12.30pm

2. Present: Delegates from Stepney, Collingwood, Bellfield, Chiltern, Pearson, Thanet, Thoresby, Endsleigh, The Greenway and Stoneferry Primary Schools,.

3. Apologies: apologies were received from Mr Browning, no further apologies but representatives from Andrew Marvell, Frances Askew, St Georges and Sutton Park were absent

4. Introduction to the resources at the centre, Mrs Hindson drew the IPC's attention to the photographic resources in the meeting room and further items in the basement and explained that visits and tours could be arranged. There was some discussion about the focus and work of WISE.

5. Individual School Activities – including news about School Visits to Freetown

Chiltern pupils reported that Judith, Nigerian visitor had talked to the school as part of their Harvest festival, and talked about the problems caused by the shortage of clean water in her home country. She had said that Chiltern pupils should be very grateful for their access to constant, clean running water.

Belfield pupils had written letters to pupils in their link school, and had, after a very long period, received replies from them. They remarked on the Sierra Leonean pupils' unusual names, and their interesting accounts of their school day in Freetown. It was noted that the postal service in Sierra Leone is still very unreliable.

Priory pupils reported that the head teacher of their link school had visited Priory and talked about the issues they faced in Freetown. They also looked at the instruments and clothes brought back by their teacher after her visit and enjoyed the video she had when she was in Freetown of their link school's assembly in the school yard.

Pearson pupils reported that Miss Nixon had just returned from Freetown, and she would be talking about her visit in assembly next week. This week a Thai delegation has visited school. They came to look at English lessons, to speak to the pupils about Thailand, to make a school to school link and to find Pen friends for Thai pupils. They gave a presentation in assembly and talked to pupils in year 3,4,5 & 6.

Thoresby pupils reported that a teacher from Thoresby went to Sierra Leone and is reporting tomorrow. They had a Freetown visitor in year 6 and pupils have written letters to their Link school counterparts explaining what school is like in England.

Thanet pupils reported that their teacher went to Freetown and brought back a plaque from their link school saying thank you, and a dress that was made for her. They have set up a display about Sierra Leone with photos of the school and pupils, letters from pupils and artefacts.

Stoneferry pupils have written letters to their link school and received them back. They reported that in their link school wall displays are created using recycled cardboard. They say that one of their teachers is planning a visit to their link school.

Greenway Academy pupils have been learning about William Wilberforce and the abolition of the slave trade. They described a charity which markets all sorts of useful equipment including water filters to make water safe for drinking. Pupils said they would investigate further to find out the price of large orders or even see whether it might be viable to get hold of these filters in Sierra Leone.

Endsleigh pupils remembered the activities which had been carried out on World Water Day earlier in the year to make us aware of what it might be like to have to carry all the water you might use in a day. They said it had made them much more aware of how much water is wasted and has encouraged them to implement measures to reduce their use of water. They reported that staff on a recent visit to Freetown had brought back musical instruments.

Clifton pupils have a new link starting and said they had been looking at how people practice their faith in different countries.

Stepney pupils said they had been emailing letters but that there had been problems with emails between the schools. They said they have set up a link with Papua New Guinea through a rugby player who plays for Hull KR. The school had no resources or furniture. Stepney school have sent out used tables and chairs to the school in Papua New Guinea. They also have a link with Tasmania.

Collingwood pupils reported that their school council has sent out picture, letters and photos to their link school. A Somali woman came into school to talk about life in Somalia and stressed how lucky children are in England. They also brought along reports they had written about red Nose day and their contribution to it, and also their research into Unicef.

6. Proposed activity days – what can the IPC do during these days? **Human Rights day: 10th December**

– It was suggested that schools find out about the United Nations Charter for the Rights of the Child. Schools which have the RRS Award could share their experience of becoming a Rights Respecting School and share that experience with their link schools. The Amnesty International Website www.amnesty.org.uk/write is encouraging people to write letters in support of people who are being persecuted for speaking out. Schools could adopt one of these people and write letters in support of their freedom.

7. How can IPC help to raise the impact of the Pupil Voice in Freetown? Pupils shared examples of effective pupil voice from their own schools which could be developed in all our

Freetown Link schools – Stepney suggested using questionnaires, talk partners in class, Clifton recommended pupil discussions, Collingwood suggested coaching groups – groups which pupils of all ages which meet weekly to discuss issues and support each others' learning. Other groups suggested included eco group, events committee, sports committee, playground buddies, and opportunities for pupils to take responsibility and support each other, e.g. school houses and house captains.

- 8. Linking with Hastings IPC** Collingwood had researched the Hastings Freetown Link and their IPC and brought materials to support this. We discussed setting up a skype link, and pupils thought that this should either be done between two small groups at a time, or if a link between the two IPCs be set up, then questions and answers would have to be prepared in advance so that the time was used most fairly and effectively, e.g. each school asking one questions and answering one question and people didn't speak over each other.
- 9. Photo to be taken of IPC to send to Freetown and Hastings.** Photographs were taken
- 10. A.O.B.** It was very much appreciated that the IPC councillors from Collingwood were experienced. They provided good role models and strong lead to those who were new to the role.
- 11. Dates & Times for Next Meeting** Collingwood pupils had the next meeting date in their diary as February 28th. It was suggested by some representatives
- 12. A.O.B.** It was suggested by some of the children that next time, the meeting could straddle lunch to break up the meeting into 2 periods, e.g. 11.30-12.30 meeting, 12.30-1pm lunch, 1pm-2pm meeting. Some of the agenda items would have benefitted from group discussion and this format would allow more time.