

Curriculum Committee Meeting 29th June 2023

For the 29th June Curriculum Committee meeting, Ms Boateng organised a school visit for Rachel Burd (RB) and Nick de Haes (NDH), who then joined some of the children on a school trip to Hackney Music festival.

A few observations:

- Curriculum
 - Maths - RB and NDH visited a maths lesson. When asked questions about what they were studying the students were able to confidently and accurately discuss the mathematical concepts that they were studying, using technical language, for example, “an obtuse angle is larger than 90 degrees”. This demonstrated, what appeared to be mastery of the content and the ability to communicate effectively
 - Question for consideration: The Ofsted inspection gov page explains that Ofsted inspectors will “explore whether pupils have been taught and have learned the curriculum”. Most children appear keen to raise their hand and volunteer answers to their teachers. Are there children who consistently do not voluntarily answer questions? How else are teachers checking the progress of these children on a regular basis?
 - Enrichment - on accompanying the students on a school trip, RB and NDH saw the students engage in an engaging extra-curricular activity - a group singing festival. It was clear the students had practiced the songs and were excited by the event. The students also described many other school trips that they have gone on and how this contributes to their excitement to be at Holmleight; we also observed students doing drama. It is clear that the school is doing a lot to ensure students enjoy a holistic curriculum
- Culture
 - Warmth - all classes that we visited had a warm and caring atmosphere, while students were also consistently well-behaved. Classrooms and the corridor had a calm atmosphere, which contributes to an environment where children feel safe
 - Independence - students were encouraged, when appropriate, to be independent (e.g. in the Kinder classroom where they can break off and work in small groups or enter the courtyard when they see fit; children independently taking reading assessments on the computers) and respected the independence they were given
- Leadership
 - Ms. Boateng - it was clear that Ms Boateng has a close connection to what is going on in each classroom and commands the respect and affection of staff and students - it was very impressive

Overall - bravo!