

Notes of the debriefing session in Scotland (Thursday 8th November)

1. School differences

- Different curriculum
- No bells
- Teachers more personal with students in HK
- Book clubs in Scotland
- Some schools have no uniform in Scotland
- HK more homework than Scotland
- Class form room in HK, and trusted to be in the class
- Bags beside desks in HK
- Length of lessons (35 mins) in primary in HK rather than “flexible to meet learners needs”
- All 900 pupils in primary have same break and lunchtime
- Size of primary schools

2. Cultural differences

- Italian host family provided Italian food every night
- Food (rice and noodles vs sweets and potatoes)
- Tutorials in HK after school, in Scotland pupils attend many extra-curricular clubs after school
- Achievements and expectations higher in HK
- Buildings taller but less space in HK, more green space in Scotland
- Teachers more interactive in Scotland and provide students with more opportunities to express and create: HK more teacher-orientated

3. Cultural highlight:

- Edinburgh castle
- Haggis

4. Head teacher difference in HK/Scotland

- Scottish challenges very big! Different values: HK more traditional but in Scotland more freedom
- Settings, environment, facilities more advanced in Scotland eg smartboards
- Head teachers are very busy people in Scotland, SLT are much busier than in HK.
- Taking ideas back to HK: Pathways, teaching and learning, quality assurance system, rugby and football academy