

Notes of the debriefing session in Hong Kong (Thursday 11th October)

1. Professional highlights:
 - Sports day: sense of community
 - Chinese culture-sharing
 - Differences in school uniform
 - Accents and the way English is spoken
 - Homework differences in primary school
 - Buddies worked hard and did a good job in helping Scots pupils fit in to their curriculum
 - Small convenient workspaces in HK
 - Bell was not too loud and slightly amusing in HK
 - Break time: pupils allowed in classrooms and not allowed to run in the playground
 - Good set length of time on each lesson (35 mins) in primary school

2. Cultural highlights
 - Cook in different ways (don't use a cooker to cook rice!)
 - Use a fork to eat
 - Not allowed a football in the playground
 - In Scotland we open presents when given, but in HK they wait till they get home
 - Boys can have long hair in Scotland
 - Some schools in Scotland wear casual clothes
 - They speak fast in Scotland
 - No undergrounds or skyscrapers in Scotland
 - People-watching on streets of HK helps us to learn about lifestyle
 - More historical buildings in Scotland
 - Living space much smaller in HK, especially sharing space
 - You can visit a range of different places within a short travel time in HK
 - Stanley: bartering for prices
 - Food culture: sharing dishes together in HK
 - Hard-working teachers and students in HK

3. One aspect to take to Scotland?
 - Relationship between teachers and students: more personal and demonstration of care
 - More trust between teachers and students: use of form rooms in break and lunchtimes
 - Allowed their bags next to them in primary
 - Tables more efficient in class
 - Different subjects in primary
 - Mobility around school
 - Lengths of lessons in primary (35 mins)

4. One aspect to take to HK?
 - Chinese paintbrushes
 - Different approaches to academic pressure: mental health and wellbeing

5. Sum up the essence of the exchange visit
 - Serious
 - Braver to meet new people
 - Cultural exchange
 - Contact with others in the world
 - Challenging language barrier
 - Extraordinary
 - Different routines
 - Good opportunity
 - Learn new things
 - Life-changing culture shock
 - Precious
 - Amazing
 - Expand horizons
 - Curriculum design changing
 - Relationship building/friendship
 - Warmth