

## ***Archie's update at January 2019***

Another year and another opportunity to move forward together to foster and support cultural and learning connections between Hong Kong and Scotland and, even in my 19<sup>th</sup> year learning in Hong Kong I am excited. There is every chance that we will add to our partner schools this year and already discussions are under way to bring in new enthusiastic partners to enlighten and further strengthen HKSSIP. Just watch this space and more!

When I am asked about HKSSIP I usually start by saying we are essentially a coming together of like-minded schools and school leaders with the aim of improving learning for our pupils and students through exposure to different ways and different cultures. I learned a long time ago in my early leadership training that 'there is no one best way'. We are a very informal partnership, a voluntary coming together with a minimum number of rules or regulations. We charge no fees to become a partner, and no member of HKSSIP receives any monetary payment from serving the partnership. We have come this far with a lot of success because of energetic, committed school leaders and teachers, and an amazing desire from pupils and students to become involved in the sharing and exchange visits. It is quite uplifting to read in our web site students' stories about the wonderful experiences, especially in shadowing classes and living with 'host' families.

We thrive as a total partnership complemented by one-to-one partnerships between schools in Hong Kong and Scotland. We encourage schools to work with their partners during the year as well

as taking part in the exchange visits. The aim in 2019 is to encourage more ongoing partnerships, especially given the huge advances in technology which are making contact so much easier.

I would like to give special thanks to Dr Judith McClure for encouraging and inspiring me to be bold in setting up HKSSIP. Judith has stepped down from Chairmanship of SCEN after twelve wonderful years of promoting strong links between Scotland and China. I am not around all the time so it is great to have committed, enthusiastic Coordinators in Hong Kong -Principal Lancy Tam - and Scotland – Headteacher Donald Macdonald. They work so well with our team of school leaders and teachers to promote HKSSIP. A big thanks, too, to the host families in Hong Kong and Scotland who have contributed hugely to the success of our cultural understanding, it is this hosting that gives HKSSIP something very special.

My best wishes for 2019 and the forthcoming 'Year of the Pig' – kung hei fat choy, and xin nian kuai le

Archie McGlynn