

Hong Kong Scotland School Improvement Partnership (HKSSIP)

2nd Meeting in 2019

Note of meeting (read alongside the note of the Edinburgh meeting of 2 April)

Date: 2 May, 2019

Venue: Room 101, Tsung Tsin Christian Academy

Time: 17.00 – 18.45 hours

Attendees: Mr. Archie McGlynn, Ms. Lancy Tam, Mr. Richard Cheung, Mr. Ivan Ho, Mr. Kan Wai Hung, Mr. Cheung Man Wai, Mr. Chung Fat Sing, Ms. Andra Ng, Mr. Edwin Lam, Mr. Ian Chow, Wallace Lam, Lorraine Tsui, Mr. Cassy Yu, Ms. Melaine Lee, Mr. Cheng Sze Wang, Ms. Firenze Kwok

Apologies: Ms. Lourdes Yu, Mr. Dion Chen

1. Welcome and introductions

- Archie welcomed members, old and new, and expressed great satisfaction with such a very good attendance which bodes well for the future of HKSSIP. He was very impressed with his visits to all partner schools during the current week (Creative scheduled for Friday). It was particularly uplifting to visit the new partner schools. He liked the positive ethos in the new partner schools and the commitment of the Principals. During the visits he enjoyed opportunities to meet students who visited Scotland in previous years, students who have been selected to take part this year, and students who will host Scottish students. He also met teachers who will be the students' 'well-being' support during the exchange to Scotland.
- Partners were invited to introduce themselves and founder members and Archie went on to explain briefly the birth of HKSSIP
- All agreed that it was quite special for HKSSIP to witness a 100% increase in partnership, rising from ten founder-schools to twenty schools, spread evenly between Hong Kong and Scotland. The growth is a result of 'word of mouth' recommendations about the value and strengths of the partnership. Archie mentioned that he has been contacted by more schools interested in joining but for the meantime it is best to let the new partnership take shape and mature. Partners appreciated the need to be patient when networking with new partners to allow schools to get to know each other. We are all 'volunteers' with no paid staff, and Archie referred to the strong support from partners, for example, LTPSS in running our web site and arranging meetings, TTCA in hosting meetings and various schools taking turns to organise block booking for exchange visits.
- Ian displayed the ten partnerships on PowerPoint complete with logo/crests of the twenty schools.
- The discussions underlined the great value of 'host family' arrangements which partners feel makes the HKSSIP special – cultural blending with learning and teaching in our schools. It was also considered important to have a mix of schools with different backgrounds, contrasting socio-economic catchment and different management organisations (see for example, the flourishing partnerships between RHS and YYN01, and BHS and Kwok Yat Wai -schools with contrasting socioeconomic catchment areas).

3. Partners

- **Existing partnerships:**
 - James Gillespie's High School/ Law Ting Pong Secondary School
 - Boroughmuir High School/ TWGHs Kwok Yat Wai College
 - The Royal High School/ HKTA The Yuen Yuen Institute No. 1 Secondary School

- Preston Street Primary School/ Yaumati Catholic Primary School

- **New partnerships**

- Balerno High School/ Creative Secondary School
- Gracemount High School/ Wong Siu Ching Secondary School
- St Thomas of Aquin's Secondary School/ Maryknoll Convent School
- Knox Academy/ Tsung Tsin Christian Academy
- George Heriot's School/ YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College
- Liberton High School with Wong Shiu Chi Secondary School

4. Note of Edinburgh Meeting on 2 April, leading to progress on partnerships and exchange visit arrangements

Scottish students and leaders/teachers to arrive on Friday 20 September, stay in hotels and come to Mei Ho House on Sunday 22 September at 4 pm when students will be collected by host families. It is likely that Scottish leaders/teachers will stay in either City View Hotel or Mei Ho House. Students and teacher in charge of their stay with partner school will visit Ocean Park on Friday 27 September before transferring to hotel/Mei Ho House for final night in Hong Kong.

Approximately 20 leaders/teachers will be coming with students from BHS, JGHS and RHS (Preston Street and YCPS are considering a February exchange). Headteachers from BHS, JGHS, Balerno HS, St Thomas of Aquin's, Gracemount, Knox Academy, Liberton High School, will take part, and Depute Heads from RHS and Heriot's. The schools, apart from RHS and Heriot's, will be also be coming with one or more teachers. The new Scottish partners will bring students in the 2020 exchanges.

Archie agreed to be tour guide on Saturday. Sunday for 'cultural' visits to be discussed with Scottish leaders at next meeting in Edinburgh (probably early June) – in previous visits some people visited Stanley, some visited Tung Wah HQ, Man Mo Temple, so important not to duplicate the experience. Scottish members should decide whether to use the Sunday for cultural organised visits and/or Friday when students will be visiting Ocean Park. Also Friday might be used by leaders to follow up some issues experienced during the school visits. Scottish leaders to decide what is best for them.

Debriefing session for all to take place on Thursday 26th at 5 pm in TTCA (thanks to Principal Cheung) followed by Chinese dinner in nearby shopping mall). Scottish students should use the opportunity to prepare for the SCEN Youth Summit on November 8th, and discuss with Hong Kong students coming to Scotland in November how best to present at the Summit.

5. Draft outline for Scottish visit to Hong Kong

Students expected to spend approximately 3 days in partner school and two days on cultural activities (including Ocean Park) and preparing for debriefing (Archie afterthought following the meeting – might be sensible to bring together Scottish students and host students around 3.30 pm to prepare for debriefing Teachers with responsibility for day to day 'well-being' of students to be with partner schools for around same duration as their students.

The school leaders from Scotland expected to spend first two days getting to know their partner schools (Archie adds some draft suggestions for the two days as attachment)

Agreed that it would be very good learning experience for leaders to visit at least two other partner schools, probably in groups of 3 or 4. Archie to link with the two co-ordinations to come up with some suggestions which should take account of leaders' interests. Hong Kong's superb transport facilities should enable leaders to get around quite easily and accompanied by a Hong Kong partner.

Agreed with the idea of a leaders' workshop on Thursday morning, say from 09.15 to 12.30 followed by snack lunch (hope to have Principal Cheung's approval to hold the workshop in TTCA and so convenient for the debriefing and final dinner) Leaders might use the afternoon to draft a summary – bullet point-style -of the week's experience for sharing and improving next exchanges.

Topic (draft) suggestions: School management/governance; learning and teaching, student development and pastoral care; planning for staff/professional development; comparing and contrasting approaches to school evaluation (e.g. how good is our school)

It was felt that we should aim for short inputs (say 10 to 15 minutes) to involve many leaders from both Hong Kong and Scotland and range of topics, followed by group discussions.

6. Hong Kong exchange visit to Scotland

Staff and students to fly out on Saturday 2 November, arriving on Sunday 3rd to be collected at airport by host families/school. Return on Saturday 9th arriving Hong Kong on 10th.

Schools to agree on flights to secure best value for money and fly out together. Usually schools take turns to make the arrangements for approval of partners. – Wallace advised the meeting that he just talked with Principal Dion who expressed a willingness to help with central arrangements – great move by new partner! Dion has good experience of arranging visits wearing his DSS 'hat', including Scottish visits. Schools also agreed to work to select a city centre hotel – Principal Lancy and Principal Cheung (CSS) and Archie said that the hotel used on precious visits is good value for money and central location (Cosyroomz Hotel, Shandwick Place, - Archie adds that he thinks Haymarket Hub Hotel was also used by some people) – early booking essential. TTCA staff will need to be located in Haddington, home of Knox Academy – perhaps Principal Susan might have some suggestions).

The proposed timetable for students to be similar to the one detailed above for Scottish pupils in Hong Kong. Cultural visit to include visit to Edinburgh Castle and Royal Mile and probably National Museum of Scotland or Holyrood Palace.

Principals/senior leaders to have school programme similar to the one detailed above for Scottish Headteachers/senior leaders, and possibly refined in light of the Hong Kong experience. Workshop on Thursday morning to build on the outcomes and recommendations of the Hong Kong workshop. Scottish leaders to construct the programme in association with Hong Kong. Scottish schools to select venue for both the workshop and debriefing session.

The SCEN Annual Youth Summit is to take place in prestigious Edinburgh International Conference Centre on Friday, usually welcome reception from 10.00 hours to 15.30 hours. Our HKSSIP students to present their ideas on and experiences of HKSSIP and exchange – ten minutes per presentation, twenty minutes in total. We can have two separate presentations or, for first time, have a joint Hong Kong Scotland presentation, comparing and contrasting experiences. All schools expected to take part. Hong

Kong students free to decide how best to use the final evening in Scotland (in past some go shopping, some link up with Scottish students).

7. Students and staff coming to Scotland – probable numbers

YYNo1 to bring six students; LTPSS six; TTCA around six to ten; Wong Shiu Chi SS six; Wong Siu Ching SS four to six; Maryknoll to be confirmed; Kwok Yat Wai four to six. Creative and Christian College to begin with students in 2020.

It is great to have schools working hard to engage with host families to make HKSSIP come alive and be special partnership. Hong Kong new partners are so pleased to be getting started by bringing students in November and grateful to Scottish partners for working with them – the leaders will have good opportunities to get together in September in Hong Kong.

There will be at least one staff member from each school. New schools likely to be Principal/senior leader plus one teacher for looking after ‘well-being’ of students on day to day basis. Archie stressed the importance of Principals and Head teachers of new partners taking part in the forthcoming exchanges to get to know their partners and the ‘feel’ for HKSSIP

8. Other points for follow up and/or action

Hong Kong schools to confirm their staff and student numbers on or before 31 May.

Details of student and pupils to be shared partnership by partnership, including teachers joining the exchange and details of host families. Archie asked that ongoing partner by partner communication to be shared with him plus two co-ordinations, Donald and Lancy.

Hong Kong and Scottish partners urged to engage in discussion and sharing on receipt of this note of the HK meeting and the already distributed Edinburgh note of 2 April. The in-school timetable to be flexible to meet needs of the individual partnerships, but broadly in line with the HKSSIP timetable advice as listed above in this note.

Archie urged partners – both in Hong Kong and Scotland – to publicise the work of HKSSIP whenever and whenever an opportunity arises, for example, school web sites, notice boards, at seminars/conferences. The logo brings together the flowers of the partners – bauhinia and thistle – surrounded by the world globe, and the world famous yin and yang symbol at the foot of the card. Principal Ivan is arranging to purchase a further supply of the Hong Kong Scotland label badge to be issued to all participating staff students and pupils in the forthcoming exchanges. The flower of Hong Kong is a purplish red and sometimes called the Hong Kong Orchid tree. The thistle is purple and robust, the flower of Scotland since the reign of King Alexander 111.

The meeting also put down a marker for a future agenda item – how best to share and respond to the growing HKSSIP partnership.

9. Close and thanks

Members expressed thanks to TTCA, especially Deputy Principal Andra, for the excellent arrangements for the meeting (and the follow on dinner). Archie said he was so grateful to LTPSS for running the web site and updating so regularly, and also providing admin support in arranging meetings and preparing draft notes (especially Bryan and Ian). Finally, he thanked Principals for their hospitality and welcome during his visits during the week, and especially for their flexibility in making sure he completed his 'tour' of all ten schools.

Archie

5 May, 2019

Suggested **draft** for school leaders first two days in partner school (flexible to meet partner desires and interests)

Sharing ideas with Principal/Headteacher and senior management, getting to know the school (for new partners); classroom observation of a range of lessons – different subjects, different year stages; group meetings with students/pupils covering different age stages and informal 'agenda' with ideas from students/pupils and leaders; informal group meetings with classroom teachers exploring learning and teaching approaches and school ethos; curriculum sharing comparing and contrasting the two system approaches with mixed group of staff.