

In the first article on our web page we wanted to share with you some of the activities we were involved in during the last academic year at the school.

Governors are linked to Curriculum Year Groups and in spite of the restrictions in place, we were pleased to be able to participate in virtual meetings to learn about the challenges that teaching staff had faced and what steps had been taken to overcome them in order to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the resumption of classroom teaching last September.

It was evident that the teams had prepared well prior to the start of the new term and the action taken to identify and put measures into place to support those who had struggled with home learning was proving successful. Settling pupils back into the new school “bubble” environment after 6 months absence with particular attention to well-being had been of great benefit and gave them the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have been experiencing.

The introduction of a new curriculum for non-core subjects had seen a positive start. In comparison to the former overarching topic approach pupils were engaged and enthusiastic about forthcoming lessons which was particularly apparent amongst those who found core subjects more challenging.

During the summer term we were able to visit the school in person and view the impressive display boards exhibiting examples of pupils’ work and also see the refurbishment projects that had been undertaken. The breakout rooms and learning areas with their themed murals provided a welcoming environment to compliment the classroom experience. We also had the opportunity to join in with themed events; one of which involved two governors working alongside the facilitator and teaching staff to replicate life in a Viking village and create a memorable day for Year 5 pupils.

Joining in with the Evolution Day enabled me to spend some time chatting to pupils about the assignment they were completing as they viewed the amazing exhibition of fossils and associated geological specimens dating back millions of years. There was a question and answer session led by the facilitator at the end of the exercise in which the group was keen to share their knowledge. One of the classroom activities that were running parallel on the day took the format of games and quizzes which linked to their learning and was an excellent way of reinforcing existing or newly acquired knowledge.

As a regular visitor to the school I was invited to accompany several of the year groups on their end of term trips. These included Year 1 environmental visits to the nearby Poplar Park where the pupils learnt about the local fauna and flora they had been studying in their science lessons, an activity based experience at the Stone

and Iron Age Camp and a visit to Stratford upon Avon with two other year groups as part of their history studies.

I accompanied my linked Year 6 Curriculum Group to Bletchley Park where we wandered around in small groups looking at the extensive amount of WWII history, learnt about the lives of the people who worked there at that time and how vital their roles were in shortening the conflict. Our knowledge was then put to the test when we participated in a simulated D Day Landing activity workshop.

During all of the visits the pupils were keen to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge gained in their curriculum studies and not afraid to ask questions in order to learn more.

We now look forward to the new academic year and further opportunities to visit the school.

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