



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 15 December 2017

Friday 1 December – Kangaroo Maths Challenge

Following the Senior Maths Challenge on 7 November, which our Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians took part in, four made it through to the next challenge – the Kangaroo. Unfortunately, on the day, Jack Spiteri was unwell and unable to take part but Simon Spurrell and Matthew Reeve in Year 13 and Erikas Kymantas, Year 12 did take part with Simon receiving a Merit and Matthew and Erikas a Certificate. Well done to them all.

Wednesday 6 December

DfE: Invitation to attend Mandarin Celebration Event, 6 December 2017

Following last week's visit to the Mandarin Celebration Event, six of the students who took part: Akinlolu Fatunmise, Jaydn Li, Khalid Elrasheed, Morgan Agbeyo, Niven Paudyal and Regal Paudyal, have all written about their experiences. Detailed below are extracts from these.



Akinlolu: "We arrived at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. There were around 140 pupils from 14 schools at the event. When we arrived we were given visitor tags and were directed to the hall where we had our own table. Once we were settled down we were offered some tea.

"Once everyone had finished their drinks a few speeches were given from my classmate Jack Ead (in Mandarin), Katharine Carruthers, (Director of the IOE Confucius Institute for Schools), Nick Gibb (School Standards Minister), Mark Herbert (Head of Schools Programmes at the British Council), Justine Greening (Secretary of State for Education) and CHEN Baoseng (the Minister of Education China)."



Jaydn: "...After a minute of walking, we made it to the main hall. It was colossal with a glass ceiling (although it was quite cold and some of us were freezing to death because you couldn't wear a coat inside). We took our seats at a table designated for our school and waited for the speeches to begin. Jack Ead started the speeches with a great speech given in Chinese Mandarin! We got to see Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education, Minister of Education of China Chen Baosheng, and Nick Gibb, Minister of State at the Department of Education. After a speech given by Minister Chen, I was given the honour to receive a gift for our school by him. The gift was a book with an electronic pen. The Chinese Embassy will send the rest of gifts to our school.

"After the speeches and after the Senior MPs had left, we had some interesting activities to do, such as Chinese Whispers (somehow the sentence My Cat likes Orange Juice was changed into a random sentence involving Jack), rearranging cards to make sentences and making memory scrolls."



Khalid: "...Jack Ead then started off the event with a speech informing us about his Mandarin journey in front of Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education; the Minister of Education China, CHEN Baoseng; the Head of Schools Programmes at the British Council, Mark Herbert and Nick Gibb, School Standards Minister. We then had a go at a variety of different activities, my personal favourite being Chinese Whispers, and were also given two scrolls, one large and one small, to decorate."

Morgan: "...At this event, there were a lot of important education figures such as: The Secretary of State for Education Justin Greening, the Minister of School Standards the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP and the Minister of Education for China CHEN Baosheng, as well as, many others.



"We got to complete three activities in our time. The first: making a scroll of sentences about what we've learnt this year. The second: making a variety of long and short sentences to see who could create the most/longest ones and the third: playing Chinese whispers with another school.

"Furthermore, we saw China from the point of view from speaker who was unable to be as privileged as those having this opportunity handed to him when he was young, however still managed to learn it so that he could work worldwide."

Niven: "...Jack Ead started off with a speech in Mandarin then was followed by some MP's talking to us about the start of MEP and how far we have come with our progress. Justin Greening (Secretary of State for Education) came up and congratulated Jack and also talked about our mandarin journey. She called up her Chinese college who had come all the way from china to see our progress. He spoke to us about how he didn't expect all the progress we had made and how we were learning in an outstanding level. He issued all the schools with an electronic book and pen.

"After all the famous people had gone we started to do activities the first one was sentence making. We had to make the most sentences to win, unfortunately we came second. We then moved on to scroll writing. All the schools had two scrolls and all of the schools done extremely well. The next activity was Chinese whispers. We whispered Chinese phrases to each other. We won the first round, it was very fun! We watched a few performances and then eat our lunch."

Regal: "... My classmate Jack Ead gave an open speech in Chinese Mandarin represented MEP across the whole country. It was a very interesting speech. We then met Justine Greening (Secretary of State for Education) who talked about MEP and Mandarin language into detail. She said she was very proud of our Mandarin skills. After her, CHEN Baoseng (the Minister of Education China) talked about the hard work we have been doing. He then gave us a Chinese book as a gift to take home. It looked very good.

"Our first activity was writing on a Chinese scroll. Everyone wrote something on it and it looked amazing! We wrote about pets, hobbies, family, transport and weather. We were allowed to take it home and

showcase it in the school cabinets for people to see. Our second activity was sentence building. We had to construct sentences using the cards given. We did pretty well but we didn't win. Our last activity was the most fun. We played Chinese whispers using Chinese sentences. We all laughed a lot and we won one round! It was a fun day."

Friday 8 December – Trip to the Globe Theatre

Beths' Year 13 A Level Literature students headed into London last Friday for their 'Othello' trip. Students toured Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and completed a workshop with one of the Globe's very own actors, learning how the words on the page work on the stage and how audiences would have experienced Othello during Shakespeare's life.

In the afternoon, we saw a wonderful modernised version of the play performed at The Ambassador Theatre.

Karen, Year 13 English Literature student said: "It was a memorable experience; I really enjoyed the play; it was creatively presented and the actors were amazing!"

Favour said: "It really brought the play alive; I got to understand the play as a performance rather than just a script".

Clarice said: "The workshop helped me to envision Othello on a stage and how the theatre itself impacted the play... I was initially sceptical about the 'youth' version of the play but thankfully it used Shakespearean English instead of a forty year olds' idea of teen slang. The play was brilliant."



Tuesday 12 December – MFL Bake Off

On Tuesday, the MFL department held their second ever bake off. There was fierce competition as lots of people entered the event. The judging was at lunch time and lots of teachers and staff went to have some cake. I made a Roscon de reyes, a traditional Spanish cake, eaten on the Epiphany. I also made a lemon cake decorated in the Chinese flag. The bakes were at an exceptional standard this year; I like the Eiffel tower cake. The bakes included: chocolate cakes, Lebkuchen cake, stollen, Bouche de Noel (Yule log) and many more. As the bakes were at a high standard it made it even harder for the judges to choose their favourite. The results for this event will be coming out on Wednesday in the last Assembly.

By Louis Forgione, Year 9





Also pictured is Mr Blyghton, Headteacher, tucking into some of the bakes that were entered.

His diet starts in the New Year!!

Thursday 14 December – Italian Lunchtime Club

On Thursday, Year 9s learnt some Christmas vocabulary with Ms Price whilst playing games and eating Panettone. It was great to see the students engaging in ANOTHER language and they sounded great. Well done Year 9!



Christmas in the Canteen

The food theme continues with some of the outstanding bakes that students have been able to purchase over the last few weeks.

Well done to Jemma Goodwright, Independent Caterers' very own Baker Extraordinaire!



Year 9 Fair Trade Speaking Competition

For the past two weeks, the whole of Year 9 have been working on speaking presentations in their first language, either Spanish or French. We have been working in partners or groups to come up with a presentation for the topic of fair trade. The four items that we could pick from were bananas, rice, coffee or chocolate. Our task was to make our own fair trade brand for one of these items. We had to include what items we were going to buy (considering that we had a budget of £3000 and this is including things like adverts) and how much profit we were going to make from these things. Some of the items that we could buy were bags, pencils, shirts etc. Also, we had to design our own logo to represent our brand, something unique and something that fitted the product that we had chosen.



To decide which groups went through to the final, each class had a heat and the best group would go through. This was voted for by the students and not the teachers. It was judged on how well it was presented, how well the language was spoken and the overall effort that went into it. Whoever won the heat in class went on to the final against the winners of the other classes, 4 French and 4 Spanish. However, because the whole year would be watching these performances, the groups had to make an English/pictorial PowerPoint so that the people who didn't do that language could get a rough understanding of what was being said.

This event took place in the sports hall on Thursday the 14 December during the first lesson of the day. A projector was set up in the sports hall for the presentations to take place and the PowerPoints to be shown. One after another, the winning groups went up and performed, each one showing skill and that a lot of practice had been put into them. As expected, it was easy to understand what each group was talking about and was enjoyable for all students of both languages.

There will be a winner for both the French side and the Spanish side of the year. However, they are yet to be announced. All the groups were great and displayed that a lot of work had gone into these. It wasn't only the finalists that had good performances as presentations from the heats who didn't get through were also very thorough and well-planned.

Charlie Anderson 9C