

**Nigeria Report by Michele Worsfold
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Objectives of the visit:

1. To meet staff at Community Secondary School Ebe to discuss collaborative partnership projects.
2. To observe teaching strategies by a variety of teachers.
3. To teach classes to demonstrate different teaching strategies.
4. To give pupils at CSS Ebe an insight into British culture.
5. To gain an insight into the Nigerian culture.

The extent to which these were met:

1. During the week spent at CSS Ebe we met all the staff. We had specific meetings with the link teacher Mr Omeife, the Business Studies teacher, the Art teacher, the Science teacher and the Government teacher. 2 main curriculum based projects in Business Studies and Science were decided upon (see later for more details).
2. A variety of lessons were observed: Religious studies, Geography and HIV/Aids.
3. I taught classes in JS2, SS1 and SS2. I taught lessons on: 'What is History?'; a brief History of Britain; British culture; questionnaires of faith and delivered pen pal letters. Dr Nabarro taught an outdoor Science lesson and CASE lessons.
4. Classes were taught about British Culture in an informal setting – circle time. Pupils received their letters from their penpals describing British culture.
5. A wealth of information about the culture of Nigeria was gained from the experience. Dance, dress, music, gender differences, work, religion, sport. Many of these were recorded in photos to use in school.

Impact of the visit:

BENEFIT TO CSS Ebe

The staff were extremely excited about our visit and I feel they benefited significantly. Due to lack of facilities and training their style of teaching was very didactic. However, they were very keen to learn different teaching styles and methodology. They observed both myself and Dr Nabarro's lessons. We used a variety of teaching styles: visual, audio and kinaesthetic. Students were encouraged to get out of their seats and participate in their learning and to develop their own opinions and explanations. Many teachers later expressed an interest to adapt/develop their teaching in this way.

The teachers were also keen to be linked with their subject counterpart in the UK – a teachers 'penpal' link as it were. The idea was not only to develop friendships and cultural understanding but also to exchange teaching ideas and pedagogy. This would develop their CPD.

In preparation for our visit the local Ebe community fundraised to pay for electricity to be put in the school, the building of a toilet and the purchase of a laptop. This will therefore have a positive impact on the school and benefit the staff and students after our visit.

The state government were heavily involved in the project. During our stay, it was reported in the local press that the government would be putting additional funding into the schools involved in the partnership. We visited other schools in Enugu state who expressed an interest in the project, as the aim is to have over 20 schools involved in the partnership.

BENEFIT TO GREY COAT HOSPITAL SCHOOL

The International Dimension is key part of GCH. As a multi cultural School, it is important to celebrate a variety of cultures. GCH already has a number of links with schools abroad, mainly in Europe, China and Japan and so it was felt that a link with Africa was also desirable. There are a significant number of GCH students with Nigerian links, so this partnership is of particular interest.

The curriculum based projects are also important in aiding GCH to integrate Global Citizenship into the curriculum which is a requirement of the new National Curriculum and a criterion for OFSTED. The two initial proposed projects are as follows:

- 1) *Fair Trade Company*– the Business Studies departments will link up to form 2 Fair trade companies. In the UK the Young Enterprise group in the sixth form will create a company and in Nigeria they will do the same. The Nigerian company will the research, design and create a product (probably a traditional art or craft, jewellery etc). The UK company will then package, market and sell the product. Both companies will then split the profit. This project will benefit students in both countries as they will learn business skills first hand as well as developing cultural links and learning about Fair trade.
- 2) *Comparing health issues in the UK and Nigeria* – the Science departments will work together to produce projects on health issues in their country and compare. Students in the UK will research Asthma and Obesity whilst students in Nigeria will research Malaria and HIV/Aids. Students will benefit from the skills of research, learning about health issues that affect their own country and then by comparing them with health issues that affect students elsewhere in the world.

As well as these 2 main projects some students at GCH will develop their understanding of being Global Citizens in their PSHCE lessons. They will develop cultural understanding through the penpal links.

On return, we held an assembly to the whole of lower school showing photos and video clips of our visit. The students were extremely excited about our partnership. In the assembly the Year 8 students who are already penpals with Nigerian students explained how they feel they have benefited from being part of the penpal link. They explained the similarities and differences between them and their penpals and one student expressed how she thought it was beneficial not only educationally but also to develop friendships and break down barriers. The idea is to expand this penpal link out to the rest of the school so that every child gets this opportunity and experience.

EVALUATION OF VISIT

- Many conversations were had between the visiting teachers on how the visit will help their own professional development, their teaching and whole school activities. We were able to brainstorm ideas and share good practice, hence starting the evaluation process.
- Our experiences were shared with our school in the assembly and with GCH staff at a staff meeting. Staff have been encouraged to get involved with the partnership thus developing a whole school participation. A teacher from each department at GCH will be linked with their counterpart in Nigeria.
- Overall, an extremely rewarding cultural experience which established teacher links and curriculum based projects which will aid the partnership to develop in the future.

FUTURE PLANS

The 2 curriculum based projects are to start September 2009.

One issue hindering the partnership is the problem of communication. The Ebe community have already fundraised to buy a laptop to aid communication. GCH will now also fundraise to pay for internet access in order to facilitate the projects. It is very clear that this is a partnership and not charity but in order for it to succeed communication is vital and so this compromise has been reached.

Once the teacher 'email penpals' develop the aim is to establish further curriculum based projects and make it a whole school initiative.

A reciprocal grant will be applied for to allow Christopher Omeife, the coordinator at CSS Ebe, to visit GCH in the next academic year.