



Press release

Blenheim High School links with Kenya to prepare young people for life and work in today's world

Miss McConnell and Mr O'Connor from Blenheim High School have built upon Blenheim's existing, successful partnership with Kisumu Day High School in Kenya as part of Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning, a unique global education programme.

Connecting Classrooms is run in over 30 countries by the British Council in partnership with the Department for International Development (DFID). It works with schools across the globe to help young people develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make a positive contribution to their world.

The programme enables teachers not only to teach these skills to children in their classroom, but also to visit partner schools in other countries to exchange insights and ideas on how to improve teaching and global learning in their schools.

Blenheim High School is taking part in the programme because of its commitment to preparing young people to make a positive contribution to their world.

On hearing the news that Blenheim High School has successfully applied to take part in the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme, Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said:

"I am delighted that Blenheim High School in Epsom is taking on this excellent opportunity to develop their professional practice by collaborating with teachers from Kenya and the UK. Their commitment to equip young people with skills and understanding for life and work in an increasingly global economy is to be commended."

Students will be working with their counterparts in Kenya on an exciting project learning about sustainable development through responsible production and consumption.

Miss McConnell from Blenheim High School said:

“The goal of sustainable development is to meet the needs of today, without compromising the needs of tomorrow. This is absolutely vital for our young learners and future leaders to comprehend, develop and put into practice. As a school, we are delighted to be part of fostering this interest and supporting them through this journey, which will also enhance their ability to learn and grow independently.”

Connecting Classrooms will enable Miss McConnell and Mr O’Connor, teachers from Blenheim High School, to take part in an exchange visit with the partner school to share experiences and success in teaching and implementing global learning in both schools. While in Kenya, Miss McConnell and Mr O’Connor will deliver a project based around guiding students to research current sustainable development projects underway on the community, business and continental level in the UK (and Europe) and Kenya (and Africa), to then pioneer and present a project of their own on their chosen level.

Mr O’Connor and Miss McConnell said:

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share and learn from good practice between the two schools, to fully immerse ourselves into a different learning and cultural environment, and to maintain this equitable partnership moving forward.”

Mr Bodell, Headteacher of Blenheim High School continued:

“I am delighted that we are continuing to develop our partnership with Kisumu Day High School, and that Mr O’Connor and Miss McConnell have the opportunity to engage in this reciprocal arrangement. This important work helps confirm Blenheim’s commitment to British values, including respect for diversity, as well as our desire to keep on improving by learning from others and then reflecting on our own practices.”

For more information about Connecting Classrooms, please contact
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