

Bahari Headteacher visits Bedwas

As part of the British Council funded Global Schools Partnership with Bahari Parents Academy in Mtwapa, Kenya we were pleased to welcome Mr Mathew Owiti, Headteacher of Bahari Parents Academy Mtwapa with Madam Jane Kayakih and pupils Kimberley and Rashid to Bedwas in the summer term. The Bahari party were hosted in the homes of staff and pupils. An action packed itinerary was planned for our visitors, which included attending lessons at Bedwas High and Mr Owiti and Madam Jane Kayakih teaching lessons to our pupils.

The focus of our Global Schools Partnership is a Flora project in which we grow plants at Bedwas and Bahari and compare growth and climate patterns. The data is exchanged and comparisons made as to yield and time to grow. This year, the focus was on growing vegetable crops – Potatoes, Onions, Radish, Carrots and Beetroot. A vegetable plot was created by clearing and digging over an area in our 'Breathing Places' Garden. Members of the Gardening Club, led by Mr Barri Mock, undertook this duty. During the visit, in May, the seeds were planted and records of rainfall, hours of sunshine, temperature etc. were kept in line with germination of seeds and tubers. On return to Kenya, seeds and tubers were sown and records kept.

Our visitors also assisted in planting bedding plants in the Wales Garden.

We were overjoyed when we realised that the Bahari visit coincided with the Global Campaign for Education Day of Action. Staff and pupils contributed to this event by undertaking the 'World's Biggest Lesson', at Bedwas, during the day. We were fortunate to have our Assembly Member, Jeff Cuthbert and Mr Mathew Owiti attend Mrs Le Clares' Year 7 Personal and Social Education Lesson on the topic of Education for All. Much discussion was had on the topic of education and its importance for children across the world.

Mr Owiti and Madam Jane Kayakih taught lesson to a variety of students. Mr Owiti taught Geography and English whilst Madam Jane Kayakih taught Kiswahili to Mr Mock's Welsh class. She also observed a Mathematics lesson. Kimberley and Rashid attended lessons with students in Years 9 and 10 throughout the week and thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and meeting a number of friends made through pen pal communications.

Visits were also made to Trinity Fields Special School, in Ystrad Mynach, and Ty Sign Primary in Risca so that our Kenyan visitors

could experience the different sectors of education in Wales.

Included in the agenda was a visit to Big Pit where our visitors were taken underground to experience coal mining and on the Saturday of their visit the Kenyan party was joined by a large group of Bedwas staff and pupils on a visit to St Fagans Museum of Welsh life followed by a tour of the Millennium Stadium.

After attending Church on the Sunday morning our visitors then headed to London for an overnight stay. We are grateful to Wayne David MP for organising a tour of the Houses of Parliament on the Monday morning prior to their departure in the evening from London Heathrow.

We are grateful to the British Council for funding this programme where we gain a lot from each reciprocal visit and the wonderful experiences had by all.

