Eaton Bray Academy - Primary Visit - KHL 29th June 2016

Eaton Bray Academy is an Ofsted outstanding mixed primary and pre-school in Bedfordshire providing education for children from the age of 2 to 11.

Community

One of the most impressive features of this school is the real sense of community that is nurtured and developed. Whilst each class has its own identity and culture there is a strong sense of being a part of the wider team which is the school. Through its PSCHE programme of values students are encouraged to look after the well-being of each other. For example, during the headteacher's assembly there were no other teachers present and a year 5 student, without prompting, left his seat to take care of a year 2 student who was in some discomfort.

How can we promote a similar atmosphere and culture within MFL at Marlborough?



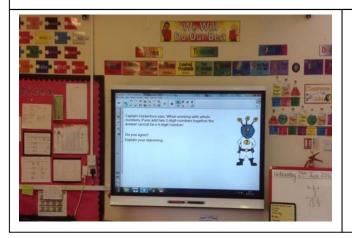
Consistency and Continuity

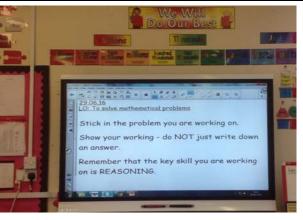
As I went round the school I was struck by the high degree of consistency in each classroom in terms of:

- Behavioural expectations
- Classroom management
- Display literacy + numeracy working walls, British values, celebrating student achievement
- Teaching + Learning prompts/aids
- Group work
- Presentation in exercise books
- Literacy as the first lesson of the day all classes
- Clear transition procedures in place at the end of each year.
- Student responsibility
- Marking + student feedback

This went right through the school across all year groups.

- How can we develop this is MFL?
- Can we make our year 7 classes and lessons less "alien" and more like what is experienced at KS2?







Choices

This is a real innovation. Every Friday afternoon the normal timetable is suspended and various activities are offered for the children to choose from each week to enrich their development and learning possibilities. The children are split into small, mixed age groups and they move around the school allowing them to spend time in a different classroom and to get to know other students and teachers whilst enjoying their chosen activity. Often parents and other adults from outside the school come in to share their expertise in various areas.

Activities are constantly changing and developing but have included:-

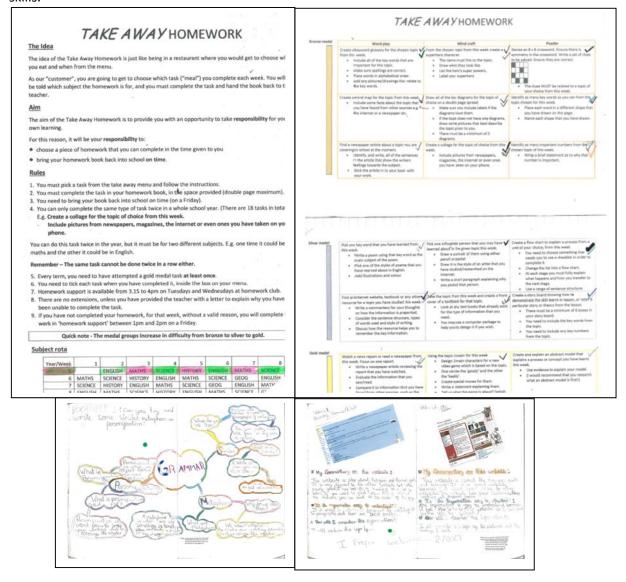
Golf Yoga Pottery

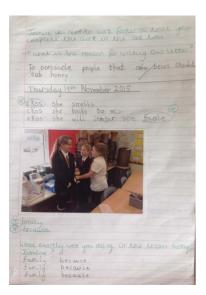
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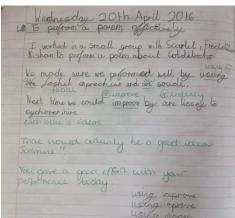
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Home Learning

In addition to regularhomework tasks which reinforce literacy and numeracy there is the takeaway homework which provides the students with an opportunity to take responsibility for their own learning. As well as crystal clear expectations about quality and timing, students are allowed to choose from a variety of tasks at different levels of difficulty and are required to cover a variety of skills.

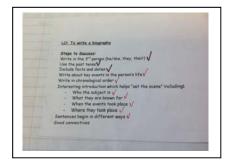






Marking + Student Books

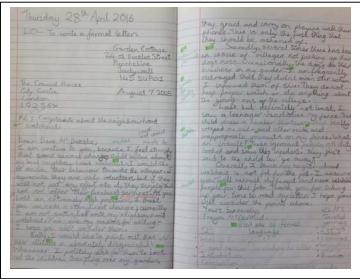
Students work is marked much as it is at Marlborough with comments highlighting the positive and the areas for improvement ("even better if"). Students respond to spellings and they are given the equivalent of NOW tasks. Students spend a lot of time drafting and redrafting work – sometimes 3 or 4 times for a piece of extended writing until they reach the required standard. Success criteria is used and students self and peer assess their work against this. One striking difference was the inclusion of photographs of students in their own books. These really brought them to life. It was interesting to note the consistency of presentation across all classes and all year groups. Parents are invited in at various points of the year to look through their children's books with their child, the teacher being on hand to answer any questions.





Learning Aids

Each classroom has a set of dictionaries and a wide variety of different placements designed to support their learning. Students are encourages to use these and are free to help themselves to whatever they need. There is a culture of students as independent learners and they are able to move around much more than we allow in our classrooms.





International School Award – the school has created an impressive range of links with the local community and with schools abroad.

MFL @ Marlborough – Action Points

- Look at how our classrooms are organised in terms of resources and display to promote independent learning and to provide effective learning support.
- Ensure consistency across all classrooms.
- Introduce learning placemats for each year group.
- Look at introducing more collaborative tasks.
- Investigate ways of creating more of a sense of an MFL community.
- Build links with outside agencies. Can we aim for the International Schools Award?
- KS2 transition how do we make year 7 lessons and the year 7 culture reflect and build on the primary experience?
- Make links with our primary feeder schools' language coordinators. What is their MFL provision?
- Home Learning can we build in some tasks which encourage independent learning and research?