

Link Governor visit to Humanities – Thursday 6th December 2018 and conversation Wednesday 9th January

I arranged with Head of Humanities Lyndon Cowlard to observe two lessons. The visit began with an informal chat with around half a dozen members of the Humanities teaching staff.

The staff all seemed really positive about themselves, the teaching and the school. There was clear pride and commitment to ensuring the best possible education. They really recognise and enjoy the professional trust placed in them by the Senior Leaderships Team at KGGS and the numerous small gestures, such as an offer of lunch for running a lunchtime club, were much appreciated. In short, they felt valued. They believe the school and department are well managed – and those teachers who have arrived from other schools were particularly fulsome in their praise.

All seemed to feel in a good place with no acute resource issues, although they'd always like more. They were happy with the support they received for their mental well-being.

As an observation – a number of pupils came to the door during my short time – to ask queries about homework, lessons etc. The pupils were unfailingly polite and engaged.

I went into two lessons. Year 12 Geography taught by Mr Cowlard and Year 13 History taught by Mr Groom. Both used videos during the class using the interactive white boards. Of course, I wasn't there to judge the quality of teaching – but I've written to them to say how much I enjoyed the classes – interesting, engaging and fun.

What I did see were classes of girls who were keen to participate and really supportive of each other. They were happy to critically question aspects of what they were being taught and also seek clarification for issues which they found less clear. In my opinion, the classes showed pupils who were enjoying learning and had respect for the school and their teachers.

I followed-up the observation with a conversation with Mr Cowlard about the most recent GCSE/A level results, targets and strategy. He feels the results were broadly in line with expectations and especially strong at GCSE level. He's working on a strategy to improve A level results amongst A/B grade students whose value added has not been as strong as others when moving from GCSE to A level. All key stage 5 students are getting more focused one to one reviews.

Mr Cowlard and his team have enjoyed working for Mr Scott and were disappointed, though understanding, of his decision to stand down. They believe the school and their department is in a good place.