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FINAL REPORT

Study visit to the Netherlands 6th – 10th March 2012

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The aims behind this study visit were:

- **to become more familiar with the Dutch Education system;**
- **to be informed about different school practices in the Netherlands;**
- **to find out more about the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and it's work with schools;**
- **to visit businesses taking forward a Circular Economy and C2C technologies;**
- **to find out how Dutch schools were teaching sustainability and the Circular Economy to pupils;**
- **to share with Dutch and Scottish colleagues about school development and curriculum development;**

My department was visited by HMIE with regards to CfE and Self-Evaluation 18 months ago. I was given some excellent comments and very valuable feedback. One of the main suggestions offered to me was to try to undertake more CPD especially with other schools especially as I was in a very small department and sharing information and professional dialogue was unfortunately scarce.

When the prospect arose to take part in a SCIPD event in the Netherlands in line with preparation for Level 3 and 4 Experiences and Outcomes in Technologies I decided to jump at the chance. Not only would it benefit myself and the school in planning for the change in the curriculum but it would allow me to meet up with likeminded teachers and individuals from around Scotland whom could share knowledge, experience and ideas.

On the morning of the flight, the airport gave us the opportunity for the 10 teachers and representatives from Education Scotland to meet up and make introductions. It was clear that all are from mixed schools, subjects and different levels of planning for CfE. Two of the teachers were from private schools. The majority of teachers had a technology background so linked with the technologies experiences and outcomes up to 4th level. I was the only sole Business Education teacher involved and hoped to look at from an Enterprise, Business Management and Administration point of view. We flew to Schipol airport, then by top level train to Den Bosch then taxi to Hotel Zin on the outskirts of Voight. This gave us ample opportunity to swap stories of school life and share ideas. We observed some of the industrial areas of Amsterdam as well as witnessing their fantastic canal system, windmills and turbines as well as their great infrastructure for transport (air, sea, bikes etc).

We had a formal briefing session on Tuesday evening after our arrival at the Zin Klooster Hotel and this was conducted by James Pitt and Katie Steiness from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation was good as it gave as an outline of the itinerary for the week to follow. It also gave some time to do welcome introductions between the rest of the teachers allowing to swap curriculum and school ideas as well as their own objectives for the week. This was really useful as a teacher within a one-person department and a small school, it was good to share ideas and discuss progress of CfE within different schools across Scotland in preparation of the implementation phase.

Hotel Zin was very appropriate to the sustainability theme as it was an old monastery and set in peaceful countryside. The food and drinks served were organic and provided an ample base for the teachers to discuss and disseminate knowledge and ideas throughout the week.

The formal introductory session to the Circular Economy by James Pitt and Katie Steiness was extremely valuable. They explained the basic principles of the circular economy and sustainability development technologies and some of the materials used would be ideal to use in the classroom. They used a card game to illustrate the main points and this will further be developed into a pupil resource from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation who now have an Education Representative in Scotland and should be passing out a 'Pupil Pack' and 'Teachers Resources Pack' to all schools. This resource would be an ideal starter lesson on sustainability and production which I can see being used in both the upper and lower school. In particular, I would use it within Business Management at Int 2/Higher Level in the production process topic. It may also be useful when doing an Interdisciplinary task with social subjects or science on sustainability with many other links.

Douwe Jan Joustra, a Dutch businessman key in the instrumentation of sustainability in Holland gave the group overview on the circular economy and c2c with particular reference to the Netherlands and highlighted that Holland is leading the way in implementing C2C principles.

This was followed by a talk by Jenne van der Velde, a Dutch Education expert on schools and curriculum in the Netherlands. This proved very useful in providing everyone with a background to the Dutch Education system. He showed us how pupils after a broad general education up until S1 equivalent but then specialised either going down 2 main streams – vocational or academic. Academic also split up into Academic – further education Scottish equivalent or higher education Scottish equivalent. This provided us with some information for further discussion on CfE and whether the Dutch system would be something that the Scottish Government would consider in the future.

One of the highlights of the trip was getting to visit other schools as it is always interesting to see the pupils at work in different settings, to pick up good practice and new ideas. We visited De Rotonde School and this was extremely interesting for many different reasons. The headmaster was a strong leader and felt passionately about his school, that was evident. They had recently rebuilt the school and involved pupil, staff and parents consultation. I found this very useful as our own school is

under consultation for building a new school and I have shared some of this insight with the contractors and local authority planners. The Rotonde school was for special education pupils and pupils who have behaviour difficulties and are not in mainstream school and found the talk by the HT enlightening and inspirational. The visit around the school was very interesting, however, there was no particular mention of sustainability or the circular economy.

The visit to Koning Willem 1 College was useful to see vocational subjects in a different country. As a Business Education teacher, I was especially intrigued by the Enterprise groups that created, marketed and sold their own products. We spoke to the pupils and they were confident and spoke in excellent English. I was extremely impressed by their product of tea-light candles printed with a unique design (which they had patented) and I am looking to introduce a similar enterprise unit with the new curriculum next year for S3/4. In addition, at lunch the restaurant was operated entirely by the hospitality pupils which I thought was an excellent way for pupils to put into practice the skills they have learned. This is something I think Scottish schools could use more of and I know my Home Economics and Hospitality department would love to be involved in as they already organise many events throughout the year. Again, this could be interdisciplinary between departments.

The visit to Desso was very in depth and I enjoyed the factory tour more than the presentation. Occasionally as a Business Education teacher I will take pupils on factory or organisation visits and this was very similar, however, it had obviously had a sustainability edge to it that I would like to incorporate into my lessons for the future. It was encouraging that this company, Desso, had employed C2C technologies and principles and at the feedback session it was talked about that the company would make an ideal case study for school work particularly in Business Management. Normally, I use some of the organisations I visit or use Case Studies for are local and include Springbank Distillery and Coca-Cola Enterprises Ltd, however, I'm looking into taking my Business class to visit the Skycon factory that manufactures Wind Turbines that would include thinking about a sustainable future.

The visit to Van Gansewinkel business was very informative. Unfortunately we weren't given a tour of the company but the presentation on "Waste No More" showed how further forward Van Gansewinkel and other Danish companies are in thinking about sustainability in the future than ourselves in the UK and that it is much more than recycling!

The Van Gansewinkel representatives shared information about their business on how they combine aspects of waste management and raw material provider. They demonstrated this by showing a video – "we make something beautiful out of this" which would be ideal to share with pupils. They discussed how they developed a reverse kanban system, the first company to do this where they separate materials from source, some with same quality and that they were in talks with the Government as they think it's way to develop economy. This was particularly interesting as not only could the Van Gansewinkel business be used as a case

study within Business Management but possibly the Scottish Government and others around the world may look to this principle in the future for sustainability development as natural resources become more scarce.

During the presentation they offered some facts about the business such as over 1m households used their business, that they were the number 4 in Europe with over 7000 employees and growing. The company has also taken over 140 smaller firms over 40 years, still looking to expand and go under one brand.

They have also started developing and launch some fully c2c products such as c2c paper, smart bins and work wear. They stated that C2c is a recognition of their activities. Not just a sustainability issue but a business topic and a way of making profit for the future, a new way of living. The company also gave some insight into other businesses that I regularly use as case studies in Business Management and Enterprise such as BMW running out of raw materials for new generations of car - now developed leasing options, electric cars and 4 cylinder engines. This also started a discussion that could be used within many teaching subjects about urban mining – as businesses are now needing to 'mine' for materials from waste. Many companies have embraced c2c philosophy not just to be sustainable and ethical but it is beneficial and cost effective to retrieve raw materials than sourcing them typically, this includes recycling costs. Phillips, barbantia, aveda, desso etc.

Mindset change needed of the public including staff. Characteristic of employees have changed, more people wanting to work for business because of new innovations. Used to be more operational workers with little qualifications and needed a recruitment agency. A lot of work has been done with education and schools educate children understand and promote philosophy.

The company had video clips and information that could easily be used as a case study in technologies and/or Business Management.

We visited the Christiaan Huygens College and again this was interesting to see a new sustainable school in practice. The presentation illustrated how all stakeholders were involved in giving an opinion to the new school and how it developed. The tour showed some classes in action and it was useful to see some large open plan areas that are similar to the plans for my new school. Nevertheless, there was no real mention of C2C or implementation within school curriculum and it would have been good to see more of this so we could share ideas when back in Scotland. This was pre-vocational secondary school and was interesting to note that they highlighted it as a protestant school but reiterated that all faiths were welcome and they never

discriminate against religion. Olympia is one of 3 schools. 1 of the others, Rachmaninowlan is one of best schools in Holland. Olympia didn't get good inspection results last year but are aiming to improve. The subjects taught included sport, safety, care, hospitality, trade, administration and economics. There were large areas for them to work open plan in some departments. The school seemed very relaxed, with no pupil uniform and the pupils seemed enthused and engaged in their chosen vocation. As a Business Education teacher I found the open plan area for Administration intriguing where it looked very much like a call centre or workplace rather than a school. They did use partitions to try to reduce noise after the implementation of this work area but found that the open plan space allowed them to communicate better with other departments when working on common projects. As the new National Administration courses seem more vocational this was an interesting work area to look at as our school at present are launching a pilot CfE working area for 100 pupils.

It was also an appealing school to visit as the building's architect was famous for creativity and sustainability. It cost around £16m to make adequate for 750 pupils, at moment only 650. They had an energy solar powered roof to keep sustainable and used a water system to pump around school to keep warm or cold. It was pointed out that there were no radiators, all in floor and the optimum working temperature in most classes was finally agreed to be kept at 19 degrees and there was a thermostat in every room to do this.

It was worthy to note that it was a private school but publicly funded and cost 6000 Euros per child to attend. Pupils with Special Education needs attend different schools.

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting all the schools and businesses on the excursion as it is always good to compare and pick up on new ideas.

Some of the other resources from the Ellen McArthur Foundation will be fantastic to use with pupils in the new Curriculum for Excellence. They are developing some resources and will hopefully be in contact with all Scottish schools with pupil and teacher packs. We got the opportunity to play another pupil activities – another card game resource would be a good introduction to what C2C was (- what statements are circular economy and which linear?) and help reinforce the c2c message. Another student activity demonstrated that would be useful was a powerpoint and coffee fairtrade discussion (coffee plant waste? 99.8% waste from coffee-bean making - discovery that the waste could be used for something else - mushroom growing). This activity would be great with younger pupils as a brainstorming activity in groups within Technologies, Admin or Business for Level 3 or 4.

I learned a lot from the visit and the best part was gaining an awareness of C2C and ideas to implement in Scottish schools, it was great to visit organisations in practice and will help me develop some materials for the new CfE curriculum. It was very beneficial just to have time to discuss C2C and curriculum with other teachers from around Scotland that I don't normally get a chance to do as well as getting the opportunity to meet Educational specialists from another country. I enjoyed visiting the schools and gaining new ideas for my own lessons.

The visit also opened up my eyes directly to the fact the world is changing and public mindset change is needed to take on board new sustainability challenges. It was enlightening to know that the Van Gansewinkel's employer noted that the characteristic of employees have been evolving with more people wanting to work for the business because of the new C2C innovations and encouraging that as a business they plan to work more with schools to educate children understand and promote philosophy.

The visit was very demanding and lots of information to take on board in a short visit. There was a lot of travelling and it would have been better if the trip was arranged at 'in-service' days or during exam leave so it did not impact on classes.

The visit has definitely opened my eyes to the circular economy and sustainability. I will be incorporating this philosophy into some of my lessons from S2 onwards.

I would recommend any teacher to go on a SICPD trip as I found it extremely worthwhile. However, it would have been better to go in study leave time, not in busy March, as it did have an impact on workload and on cover for teaching. It would also be worth ensuring flight times and travel times were suitable for delegates before departing Scotland so they could fit it in around teaching.