



Chelmsford County High School for Girls



Governor Visit Report Form

Name of Governor:	Dr Mike Worboys
Date of Visit:	Tuesday 5 th June 2018
Focus of Visit:	Support Functions and Facilities
Lessons/Areas visited:	Assembly Finance IT Library Meeting with EES Students & STEM Co-ordinator STEM Discussion Premises & Site Walk

Summary of activities undertaken: (eg observing classes, talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources)

This was a general visit to meet and talk to some of the staff involved in the support functions that help facilitate the day to day running of the school. My main objective was to put names to faces, learn more about what they do and visit areas of the school that I hadn't seen before, including the school grounds.

The day started with Assembly, led by Stephen Lawlor, who talked about some of the questions and thoughts generated by Year 7 students in the new Philosophy course. These were linked through books Stephen had been reading over half term to the wider philosophical context, including the 'invention of science'. There was also a celebration of students who had been successful in the Newnham College essay competition.

Fran Nel and Jennie Thrower took me through the various activities the finance team gets involved with, including close working with teaching staff to ensure trips are properly costed and don't run at a loss. Tony Cable took me through the various aspects of IT provision and support across the school, including a visit to the server room.

I met with Angela Martin in the Library and this is clearly a well-used and important space for the students. Angela explained some of the pro-active and innovative approaches she is using to encourage students to make best use of the Library, including for broadening their choice of reading in fiction.

During the morning break I met with Michelle Nicoll and six students who had completed the EES scheme project, working with BAE Systems. They were all very enthusiastic in discussing the project but they had also found great value in being able to visit and spend time in an engineering company.

Following the break I had a more general discussion about STEM activity with Michelle, in the new STEM room. The room is still in the process of being fitted out but will be a very useful space for STEM projects and also other activities. We discussed the availability of small tool resources and I suggested there may be an opportunity to submit an application for STEM Club funding to Chelmsford Science and Engineering Society. Michelle is very enthusiastic and is keen to look broader than the current 'patchwork' of projects and activities and pull together more of a more joined up STEM programme spanning across the students time at the school. Michelle has been given some dedicated time for STEM activities that will be a great help in doing this but it is still a big task. The core of the approach lies in bringing together Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Computing in a more joined up approach that facilitates STEM activities and learning.

The final session was a discussion with Richard Free on Premises. Richard took me through some of the projects the Premises team have completed, their day to day activities and the Health and Safety aspects of their work. We concluded with a walk around the grounds, including the location for the proposed new sports hall. It is clear that the premises team are saving us considerable sums of money by undertaking some of the project work that they do.

General Comments:

As always, it was a useful and enlightening morning spent in school. My previous visits have always been on the curriculum / teaching aspects so it was good to be able to meet with some of the support staff and hear first-hand about the work they do.

Summary of what was learned:

There is a high level of awareness of the budget pressures that the school is under and each function is clearly doing their bit to make sure that every penny counts.

The aspiration to create a 'through school' joined up STEM programme involving all the core subjects is a great idea but may be a challenge with the limited bandwidth that staff have. Ensuring it is appropriately scoped, resourced and championed by senior leaders will be key to its success.

Points Relevant to School Development Plan Evaluation:

Maintaining focus on STEM activities.

Additional Comments / Continuation (if required):

Signed: Name in Block Capitals: Mike Worboys

Received by Head: (N Chapman)

Date: 12th June 2018

Date Received by the Governing Body: 6th July 2018