

Birmingham Ogden Schools Science Partnership Visit – April 2014

Joint trip: King Edward VI Five Ways & Edgbaston High School for Girls

Here are some notes put together by Dan Cottle, Head of Physics at King Edward VI Five Ways School, so that any partnership schools planning a joint visit can get an idea of some of the logistical matters of such an adventure!



Reasons for doing joint trip:

- Teacher at King Edward VI Five Ways has taken a group before making planning easier.
- Large group from King Edward VI Five Ways, only 6 students interested from EHS would make it unviable for them unless we went together
- Developing stronger partnership links
- CPD opportunity for staff from both schools
- Opportunity for students from both schools to meet and learn from each other

Practical Issues

- One school booked the trip with travel company (Five Ways) and produced risk assessments, plans etc.
- Both schools had to check with Head teacher that joint visit was acceptable.
- Each school independently collected parental permission etc. but one draft letter was produced and amended for each school.
- Three terms' notice needed to be given to schools so governors could approve foreign school trip so for Easter 2014 visit, paperwork submitted in summer term 2013.
- Edgbaston High School collected in money and then paid booking school with one cheque
- Two meetings between organising staff at both schools to discuss arrangements
- Joint parental information evening was run around 3 months before the visit
- Joint pre-CERN visit lecture organised with a Physicist from the ATLAS detector - hosted at King Edward VI Five Ways with students and staff from Edgbaston High School attending.
- Regular email contact to sort out particular details required for each schools foreign visits paperwork and policies
- Agreed that we would be responsible for our own pupils and would have correct staff/student ratios etc. for our own students (this is a requirement from the schools - teachers cannot be formally responsible for pupils from another school)
- In practice much of the supervision on the trip was done jointly because all the activities were run jointly. But there was never a time when students from one school were only supervised by staff from the other school.
- Everything worked out really well!

Was it a Success?

- Pupils and staff all seemed to enjoy it!
- Staff enjoyed meeting each other - even talked about Physics teaching sometimes (!)
- It enabled more students to be inspired by the CERN experience
- Talking about doing it again next year.