

Thu 21/10/2021 15:19

Dear Colleagues,

It was great to have the opportunity to meet with some of you at Juniper and Flatford last week. As ever you gave me some inciteful feedback and ideas which I have passed on to my SLT colleagues. It was also a good opportunity to talk to some of our customers and I have plenty of notes in my notebook. I am looking forward to being able to follow up on those points and more when I meet some of you at Preston Montford in early November.

### **MPs visits**

The murder of Sir David Amess MP has highlighted again the risks that MPs take when they go about their business. Today their security threat level has risen to substantial. Around the time of the incident one of our own Centre MPs, Robin Millar was visiting Rhyd-y-creuau. We recently welcomed Sarah Green to Amersham and undaunted, Stephen Kinnock is planning a trip to Margam shortly. I wanted to acknowledge their courage in continuing to do the day job. It is much appreciated.

### **COP26**

We will continue to make the best possible use of our access to MPs. In the run up to COP26 we are honing our asks. One will be to support the GCSE in Natural History (see below). We are also waiting to see the details of a specific announcement from the DfE. Each government department has been challenged to produce a response to COP26. We are hoping that they will have put a lot more meat on the bones since this rather [woeful effort](#) from the previous secretary of state earlier in the year. I'm attending an event next week where there is a plan to soft launch some interesting initiatives. I'll keep you posted when the embargo is lifted.

### **Our Response to the Climate Emergency**

There is now a [dedicated COP26 page](#) on our website with details on what we are doing and what we have planned. In particular I want to flag up two things. The first is a debate for 18-25 year olds [hosted by the FSC Youth Council](#). A lot of work and thought has gone into setting this up so I want to thank those involved. Please do spread the word among your networks. The second is FSC's Carbon Reduction Plan which will be the subject of next week's staff talk by Andy Pratt.

### **Westminster Forum: Natural History GCSE**

On Wednesday I took part in an online conference about Greening the Curriculum. There was a good mix of academics, those that have been working tirelessly for a Natural History GCSE, politicians, journalists, teachers and educators. It's no small feat for the exam board OCR to get a fully drawn up proposal sitting in the DfE in-tray. If approved, a year would be needed for CPD and teacher training so the first teach would be 2024 at the earliest. I was speaking on how the proposal can play a role in many of the major policy concerns that haunt the corridors of power. What struck me was how enthusiastic teachers are about outdoor learning and this GCSE in particular, but that they can lack confidence when it comes to taking groups outdoors. Many were keen to find good resources to help. Fortunately FSC staff were posting links to our courses and resources into the chat room as I was speaking.

### **Data**

The FSC has now reached a stage where it's Data Sets are becoming increasingly robust and reliable. As such, key systems act as the source of truth for data and information that we generate. It is important, therefore, that if you wish to use or quote Statistics, Data and Financial Information, you refer to the Finance Department and/or the Digital and Data Office. When you need supporting

information for internal and external communications, please be sure to access the resources available appropriately. This will ensure consistency in our organisation's communications.'

**New branding**

The new brand was approved by the Board of Trustees last week. The marketing team are now working with the designer to complete the detailed brand guidelines. After that a phased roll out will begin, starting with the digital components. There have been a number of occasions recently where I have noticed that the lack of our name in full has been a disadvantage. I'm looking forward to seeing the brand in use.

**Media coverage**

I've done a follow up interview with Schools Week after the Westminster Forum and we managed to secure a free page in School Travel Organiser and you can see Ian's moment of fame [here](#) on page 46.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark