

International Travel Report



Full Name: Helen Gourley
Kingston High School

Location of travel (travel destinations):

Helsinki – Finland
Copenhagen – Denmark
Arnhem – The Netherlands
London, Shifnal, Congleton, Newcastle, Tonbridge – UK
Toronto, Vancouver – Canada
Auckland – New Zealand

General statement of value of travel:

The objectives of this Westfield Premier's Education Scholarship application were to:

1. Visit schools identified as offering innovative learning programmes, in particular those with interdisciplinary curriculum offerings, excellence in Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, and The Arts to explore their operations.
2. Meet with school designers with responsibility for the design of 21st Century schools with a focus on personalised learning and inquiry based learning.
3. Develop professional links with innovative educators in several countries in order to learn from their experiences with school building and redevelopment.
4. Share information gained with members of the Kingston High School Project 'Project Advisory Group' and the 'Project Development Team' in order to inform the design process for the new school.
5. Learn from principals who have experience in leading school transformation, in particular around the building of a new facility.

The value of the travel lay in the opportunity to meet leading educators in five different countries, observe outstanding schools in operation and to undertake a comparison of differences and similarities between different systems. The travel confirmed that planning, based on the overall notion of flexible spaces, where the building design must facilitate the learning, is highly valued and envied by educators around the world. Interesting ideas were observed in every school visited and discussions with a range of committed educators and building designers provided specific advice that will be valuable as the KHS Project evolves.

Schools/people/organisations contacted:

Finland

Järvenperän Koulu, Espoo	Head Teacher, Sisko Savolainen
Jarefeltin Koula, Lohja	Head Teacher, Seppa Jarvikivi
Muijalan Koula, Lohja	Head Teacher, Kaarina Kuusisto
Susanne Sjoblom	School Leader, English Programme

Copenhagen

Copenhagen International School,	Principal, Elisabeth Stanners
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The Netherlands

Over Betuwe College, Arnhem	The Netherlands iNet facilitator, Wim de Visser
Scholengroup Over – En Midden	Facility Manager, Mr B.J. Westerhof

UK

Cramlington Learning Village
Hugh Christie Secondary School
Eaton Banks School

Head Teacher, Mr Derek Wise
Head Teacher, Mr Jon Barker
Head Teacher, Mr Paul Roberts
Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Ann Webb
Head Teacher, Mr David Hermitt
Secondary Head Teacher, Mr Paul Topping
Director, Mr Ty Goddard
Tony Wilson, Bid Manager

Congleton High School

Hadley Learning Community
BCSE

(British Council for School Environments)

Canada

AY Jackson Secondary School
Dr Dean Fink
Dr Linda Kaiser
Dr Judy Halbert
MacNeill Secondary School
MacMath Secondary School

Principal, Mrs Nancy Nightingale
Director, Dean Fink Consulting Associates
Lecturer, University of Vancouver
Principal, Mrs Barbara Raynor
Deputy Superintendent, Richmond School District,
Mrs Cathy Thornicroft

NZ

Alfriston College

Principal, Mr John Locke

Outcomes of the school visits:

Outcomes of this study tour include an enhanced capacity to provide leadership and inform decisions on the design and occupation of the new secondary school at Kingston.

Skills obtained:

Not relevant to this study tour.

Benefits to Tasmania:

A detailed report from the study tour is being prepared and will be completed during the September school vacation. Opportunities to share the findings will be shared with a variety of stakeholders in the Kingston Secondary Project, including:

Kingston High School Staff
Kingston High School Association
Kingston High School Parents and Friends Association
Kingston Secondary 'Project Advisory Group'
Kingston Secondary Project, 'Project Development Team'
Mr Brendan Kelly, General Manager Southern Learning Service
Dr John Smyth
The Hon David Bartlett

Information gained, networks formed and photographic records of recently built schools that incorporate innovative design will inform the design and occupancy of the new Kingston Secondary School. This study tour will assist in the goal of a 'state of the art' new school for the Kingborough community. Tasmania is already highly regarded as an innovative place for education, the building of a second 'state of the art' school will reinforce this sentiment.

This Minute is a summary of the full report that will be shared with interested parties. I appreciate the learning opportunity provided by the Westfield Scholarship.

Helen Gourley

20 June 2007