

A report from Swakeleys School, who took part in an iNet study tour to Beijing and Shenyang in China in October 2010.

Swakeleys goes International!



During the last academic year several Chinese delegates have paid visits to Swakeleys School. The main aim of the visits has been to understand the British education system and the teaching and learning strategies employed in our schools. Having the opportunity to pay a return visit to China in October 2010 gave us an opportunity to learn a great deal about Chinese education and culture from the five schools visited in Beijing and Shenyang.

As a result of our visit, we have now formed a strong relationship with an official partner school, School No. 51 in Shenyang.

We aim to lead joint projects with School No. 51 and investigate teacher exchanges aiming to influence further development of teaching and learning worldwide. Chinese students are already benefiting from our support with English word walls. Furthermore, our first joint project has begun whereby both schools are exchanging letters about 'My culture and I'.

Swakeleys' pupils are marking their counterparts' English letters and giving support for improvement.

The study tour has provided an exciting link with China where we hope to continue to share good practice of teaching and learning

and share the commonality of further improving education.

'We are preparing our students for life in a world in which communication and trading knows no boundaries.' A fundamental aspect of this increasing globalisation is education about other countries, cultures and customs. At Swakeleys international education is an important component of our citizenship curriculum and our study tour to China will now enable us to develop our understanding of this.

With thanks to Lawrence Hapner, Assistant Headteacher, and Sue Pryor, Headteacher at Swakeleys School.