

iNet Australia News and Views

Volume 3, No 19
August 13 2007

Study Tour Report

Mary Howlett, a participant in the recent iNet Study Tour writes of her visit to WHITEFRIARS FIRST AND MIDDLE SCHOOL in Harrow, England.

This school is situated in an area in London where the bulk of the student population is comprised of students from families who have newly arrived from Africa and for whom English is not their first language and, in many cases, not known.

The school buildings are old but a recent refurbishment has meant that the classrooms are bright and functional. There is an overall atmosphere of engagement and excitement for learning at the school. Information Communication Technologies are employed and the children are producing some very sophisticated animations and projects in the Senior classes. An obvious pride in their cultural heritage is shown in the displays around the school

My area of interest was the Foundation Stage and I found much to inspire and motivate me on my return to Australia. Physically, despite the poverty of the surrounds, Whitefriars School has a Nursery and Early Years environment that is stimulating and conducive to the experience of rich learning

activities for the children. The "Inside/ outside" classroom is well planned and ensures a seamless movement between both areas. Children were totally engrossed in their learning.



Mary Howlett Principal of Trinity Catholic Primary School Narre Warren

The head teacher is inspirational. She welcomed her visitors and spoke with pride of her staff and the children. She was very accommodating to our requests to see various parts of the school. This school cannot produce "value added" improvement data for Ofsted Inspectors because of the transitory nature of the student population. As soon as most children are settled into School life in Britain and have gained confidence in understanding English and their ability to learn, their parents gain access to more permanent housing elsewhere and they leave

Whitefriars. The Inspectorial system seems to place much emphasis on the empirical results and may not give appropriate recognition to the human values that are so clearly lived out in the school. I admired the principal and staff for their dedication and steadfastness in providing such a rich learning environment and setting the children confidently on a path for success in their new homeland.

I would highly recommend this school for future study tour visits.



Foundation students at Whitefriars Middle and First school, Harrow

Diary Dates

- **August 16**
Learning Walks—
Glendal PS
Collingwood College
Mount Waverley PS
Wooranna Park PS
- **August 22**
Futures Vision Forum,
Eltham College of Education
- **August 16 and August 22**
Learning Walk —
Collingwood College
- **September 4**
Learning Walk —
St Mary's PS, North Sydney
- **September 18-20**
4th iNet International Conference,
Beijing, China
- **October 17**
RATL Cohort A Network Meeting
- **November 2007**
SSAT National Conference
Birmingham, UK

REMINDER

Don't forget to check the iNet Australia web site for details about future Study Tours. Planning for 2008 is well underway, and places fill quickly.

Check the [iNet Australia website:](http://www.sst-inet.com.au)
www.sst-inet.com.au

The [iNet Global website:](http://www.sst-inet.net)
www.sst-inet.net

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