



COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL

Visit to China

Diary Entry 5

17th October 2017

Beijing Calling!! Day 5

We were all up for an early breakfast and were in good time to meet the coach at 8am for the journey to Dong Fang School. We always receive a very friendly meeting from the Head Teacher and staff and they welcomed us with drinks and snacks before we had a very formal welcome ceremony and we signed a Memorandum of Understanding about the working together of our two schools. We then had a tour of the school and saw their horticultural facilities, and gardens and heard a little about what the students learn.....cider making being one thing and our pupils wanted to know if we can do that at our school!!

Youngsters then watched students demonstrate their skills in flower arranging, incense making and a tea making ceremony.....afterwards they tried both tea making and incense burning! We also joined in the 10 minute morning exercises....which we did rather well at and also had a lovely lunch in their canteen.....we said our goodbyes and travelled by their coach and got dropped off near the Forbidden City.

It is obviously a very busy part of Beijing and security was high because it's their Party Congress in the parliament building next door, but after several x ray machines we made it into the Emperors palace.....we even chanced going in through the central arch which in previous years was an offence punishable by death as it was for the emperor only, luckily nobody saw us and we escaped intact!!

It is difficult to describe the Forbidden City except to say it is one of the wonders of the modern world.....the size and splendor of the numerous courtyards and buildings are amazing, we also visited the 9 dragon screen and the well where one unfortunate concubine was dropped down head first..... at that we decided it was time to leave and caught a bus to the metro station and had tea at McDonalds and an hour shopping before going to the Red Theatre to see the Kung Fu show.....the show was enjoyed by all and we then got the metro home get back to the hotel at 9.30pm.....a very long and enjoyable day.....everyone fine and happy.....if a little tired!

Tomorrow the Great Wall.....!!!!

Mr Lock