

Visit of Mr Krajnak to Babington Academy, National Support School for INSCHOOL
UK.

June 12th 2018

Mr Krajnak, secretary of state for Slovakia visited Babington with 4 colleagues,
Silvia Galyasová Department of Minorities and Inclusive Education,
Ján Hero, State Advisor,
Lucia Kažimírová ,State Advisor
Mária Prékop, Director General, Department of Ethnical and Inclusive Education.

During the visit Mr Krajnak and his colleagues observed 4 different lessons, received presentations from the Chief Executive Officer of The Learning Without Limits Academy Trust, Mrs Denise Newsome on how schools improve, From the Principal of Babington Academy, Sara-Jayne Fletcher on how Babington engages with Roma pupils, Kim Kent Assistant Principal and Special Needs Coordinator, on practical steps to including any pupil and from Tony Booth, Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge on Implementing the Index for Inclusion. They also had lunch with present and former Babington students 3 of whom are going to university this autumn.

The minister and his colleagues had the opportunity to ask detailed questions about Roma engagement and inclusive education and took full advantage of this.

The Slovak delegation, seemed to really take on board and appreciate Babington's strong vision and to appreciate that to improve education outcomes for Roma you have to have inclusive values and to see inclusive education as relevant for everyone.

My favourite moment of the day was when the minister spoke to our Roma pupils from Slovakia and asked them not to be lost to Slovakia but to "come home" after their education and help Slovakia. The minister also recognised the European Roma Spirit Award and said he knew how hard it was to win this award and that now he had been in Babington he understand why we deserved to win it.

Babington pupils were really excited. .” A year 9 Roma girl said, “They talked to me and I could talk to the minister. That is so cool.” One year 10 Roma girl said, “It was great. We could see in their faces that they were really interested in what we had to say. It’s so good.” A year 10 Roma boy said, “Now we are going to do good things for Roma people in Slovakia. 3 year 10 girls said “Mr Krajnak sat with us in our art lesson and did some painting with us. It is really good that he wanted to walk in our shoes.”

What next?

Further collaboration with teachers from Slovakia visiting Babington so that they can see for themselves that Roma from Slovakia can succeed in education. Visits by

Babington staff to Slovakia to deliver training and advice. Perhaps, most importantly, the growing number of Roma former Babington pupils with high level qualifications can be used as ambassadors for the INSCHOOL project in Slovakia. Tony Booth is willing to travel to Slovakia to help explain the Index for Inclusion and to use his long experience to help Slovak schools implement it so long as he feels he can make a difference. He is also willing to support the UK schools involved in the project. Babington has a wider network of connections and there may be value in exploring links with members of the EAL Academy.

Mr Krajnak's facebook page shows how much he enjoyed his visit



In his leaving remarks Mr Krajnak said, "We are so pleased we came to Babington today. I now have role model for Roma education to take back to Slovakia and we will try and make it happen there."



Our food and nutrition group prepared a Slovak British fusion lunch.