



**WELCOME TO HONG KONGERS
NOTES ON MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING - Sunday 16th January 2022**

The Facility for Teams was arranged by Bal Dhangel BNO Lead across the Local Authorities in the West Midlands.

Monsignor Daniel McHugh, Coordinator of Ethnic Chaplaincies, convener of the meeting, welcomed those who had joined.

Bal spoke about the developments that had taken place to respond to issues identified in Employment, ESOL, Schools and Housing. There will be a new website (in development) offering advice on the different issues. In Solihull a new Officer in Austin Rodriguez's Department will collaborate with Bal on its development.

Mgr Daniel updated the meeting on matters relating to employment, especially opportunities for jobs with HS2 (3000 jobs), Goldman Sachs (new office in Birmingham), and the Government Department for levelling up. This information had come via the Office of MP Saqib Bhatti. Mgr McHugh advised participants to make contact (at their Advisory Sessions) with Local MPs Saqib Bhatti and Julian Knights in Solihull. Also he encouraged speaking with Local Councillors too at their Advisory Meetings; they are there to meet people and help. Mgr Daniel had spoken with Councilor Tildesley who used to be the "lead" for education/schools in the Local Authority. He conducts Advisory Sessions at the Library in Solihull; other Councillors will meet people in their local areas. Councilor Holt now has the Education/Schools Portfolio.

Visiting Speakers

Johnny O'Neil a Director of Arup, a large International Company, spoke of opportunities for young people to enter degree level and other qualifications while working. This has value in itself as well as being a way around high student fees. Johnny also advised adults to consider using their existing skills to enter new careers with job opportunities in this country. Businesses frequently collaborate with Higher and Further Education in providing recognised professional certification. Johnny is willing to be approached for advice on these areas.

Dr Jackie Musgrave, Associate Head of School, Learning and Teaching, in the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language studies at the Open University spoke of courses offered by the Open University that could assist young people and adults (some are free). Jackie forwarded information (attached to this Report) on open learn free courses; paid short courses; and Access to Higher Education Courses. Like Johnny, Jackie encouraged adults to consider ways of building on current skills through

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



education and training in order to apply for good quality job vacancies, Jackie will also be available to be contacted for advice.

The issue of advice on applications for jobs was taken forward by Carol Mcloughlin, who is offering advice on preparation of CVs etc and plans to offer a regular session. Monsignor Daniel also mentioned the Jobs Advice Club with Beryl Moppet and Tim Freeman on Monday mornings at the United Reform Church.

Conclusions:

Bal noted the mapping exercise that is underway to identify needs and opportunities across the Region. She would like co-operation especially in a possible response from the Hong Kong Community to NHS job opportunities going forward.

Monsignor Daniel noted: the plan to have a meeting for Hong Kongers in North Birmingham / Sutton Coldfield in February/March. Also, the fact that he has plans to provide a Contact Sheet which will have emails both for volunteer advice and Local Authority links on the issues being raised.

Finally, he noted for the Catholic Community that Father Joseph Liang will not celebrate Mass until Lent because of the present spread of the Omicron Variant. This means no Mass for the Community at half term, February 2022.

Sophia Cheung closed the session expressing thanks from the Hong Kongers for the Welcome Meetings and the efforts being made to support settling in the U.K.

All attending will be advised of the next meeting.

27.1.2022

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese