



Mark Lloyd-Williams, Headmaster of Hendon Prep School, discusses many the benefits of learning outside the classroom.

Like many Londoners, I enjoy visiting the wonderful galleries and museums that we can access here in the Capital. On a recent visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum (V & A) in South Kensington, I was not only struck by the wonderful exhibits on display but equally by the number of families who were there.

These 'family days out' are much more than a family spending quality time together, they are an opportunity for the whole family to get involved in learning; learning through looking and touching and more direct engagement.

Learning beyond the classroom.

In the context of school, we also understand that curriculum learning equally requires children to learn in different environments, which is why at Hendon Prep, we also endeavour to offer opportunities beyond the classroom, whether simply within the locality, our own playground and forest school environment, or further afield on visits or even residential trips beyond London.

These different learning environments enable children not only to explore new opportunities but also recognises that we learn in our own unique way. Sometimes we learn by working with others, perhaps within a team, but more significantly, it encourages children to problem-solve and even develop skills and 'behaviours' that will be equally important to their character development and possible future employability.

As we all know, our employability requires us to have received a broad education rather than one that is narrowly focussed on a small definable group of subjects. Parents will be familiar with the educational mnemonic *STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) but I would also encourage us to be thinking of *STEAM* which includes – Arts.

It is important to recognise that a holistic education equally embraces the Arts and, I believe, also makes for a more rounded and more interesting personality. This point is nicely illustrated by the Learning Manager at the new V & A Dundee who recognises the importance of art and design in schools, who believes that museums should be '...a place of inspiration and discovery of learning'. So, where are you taking your child this week-end?



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