Since our last report, we have met twice and we completed our project on thinking about who to trust, and have started work on our new project around climate change and ecology.

Our meetings:

We met on 12th June 2019 at St John’s Church Stratford. We met with Rev Dave Richards and got to work on the Mayors strategy around keeping young people safe in the Borough. We reviewed our year, voted on our new executive and voted on our next project.

We then held the election of our executive (one rep from each school): The following students were elected as their school representative:

- Quwwat: Yusra Vahora & Safaa Jamil
- St Bon’s: Lukoa Aimee & Jacob Sebastian (reserve Joshua Marques)
- Azhar: Sabiha Rahman
- Plashet: Maheen

We then had the election of chair, vice-chair and secretary. The following students were elected:

- Chair: Maryam (Azhar)
- Vice chair: Nabeeha (Plashet)
- Secretary: Adia (Plashet)

We then did an evaluation of ‘Who do you listen to?’ Who we have spoken to this year and where we have visited, what we have liked best and what we have learnt from our project? We met over 18 different religious and world-view leaders across the project. Top tips written for schools the following points were made:

- Talk to real people, rather than listening just to the media about other religions and worldviews from your own
- Talk with official religious and worldviews leaders who have wisdom and done more study then you have
- Ask questions about things you are not sure about
- Don’t listen to stereotypes
- Don’t listen to narrow-minded people
Always question things that you are hearing or learning about
People go through a journey with their faith and that is interesting to know about
Don’t just stop at knowing things about religions, go deeper into the concepts behind it all
It was interesting in this project to discover who the different faith leaders/representatives listen to themselves and why
When you learnt in depth about religions and views different from your own you actually learn more about your faith – it causes you to think and reflect on what you believe and why
Remember information on the internet could be mythical or false – look at substance rather than looks of information
Listen to people who can name their sources and references
Look for positive people and listen to them
I have learnt a lot more about religion and life from talking with the 18 different faith leaders/representatives we have met this year
I have learnt what we are attached to really affects our lives and our motivations

We then had a tour of the church and questions to Rev Dave Richards
We then had Frances Winter from the youth safety board along with PC Dani and Andy Lewis from St Bon’s join us for a discussion about youth safety.
We then discussed in pairs and our class groups possible projects for next year: presentation of ideas and voting for what we do next and decided we would do a project around ecology.

We met as an executive and Mrs Clinton had just found out that we had won £4000 towards an arts based project on ecology. Our meeting was on looking at what we do in each of our meetings across next year.

Our new chair Maryam attended the Newham united faith leaders event with Mrs Clinton and spoke to the council and faith leaders about the importance to getting to meet with new people outside of our own religious or worldview. This is how we learn.

We then met on 2nd October at St Bonaventure’s school to start our new project on climate change (as I write this we haven’t done this meeting yet!), but we are planning to meet seven different faith leaders, make some films of faith leaders talking about their views on ecology and doing some filmed starter activities for teachers to use.

Fatima Khatun - chair