

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 12 – 2.11.18

Masterclasses began in earnest this week and again I was delighted to see how quickly and easily pupils moved to their Masterclass room and engaged not only with the lead teacher, but with other pupils. I certainly had my skills challenged when I took over the Languages option as Mr Gilmour has been unwell this week. It is a very long time since I studied German, but was able to use the wonders of the internet to create a lesson introducing numbers and a little flavour of the German culture. What struck me was that all pupils were on a level playing field when it came to learning numbers 1-10 and all pupils put in a tremendous effort that they were rewarded with merits which go towards Knox Academy Personal Achievement Awards that are presented in the summer term at Awards Ceremony, so I am hopeful we will again see a large representation from Meadowpark pupils there.

I have been covering in Tyne this week which has given me a greater insight into how pupils in this class learn, and how effective the routines and strategies are. Furthermore we have a supply teacher in today and she has been warmly welcomed by pupils who have accepted the changes with good grace, respect and enthusiasm. Well done Team Tyne for such a positive experience.

Further examples of success have come from Esk class this week where we have seen a young person, for whom school was completely overwhelming, ask to extend their time here because the experience they are getting is so positive, progressive and ambitious that they want to further engage in learning.

Mrs Davis and I met with Max Sykes from Canon this week in a bid to request digital support through the use of cameras to assist Esk class with recording their SQA Personal Achievement Awards and National qualifications. We believe passionately that all young people at Meadowpark deserve the very best education with an expectation that they will be able to continue a lifelong journey either into work, further study or in some cases, independence.

Because our young people don't fit into the norm of a mainstream school experience, the qualifications and ways of recording achievements are not always compatible with the mainstream approach i.e. assessments, exams etc. However our young people deserve every opportunity to be able to express themselves and collate a viable portfolio of achievement that will assist their future pathways.

In order to achieve our aim that all young people should be as independent as possible, it is essential that we are able to provide a robust, easy to use, digital camera that can be utilised by all our achievers to record their progress through SQA Personal Achievement Awards, National Progression Awards and SQA National 2 and National 3 awards all of which carry SCQF points which are cumulative and can be used to facilitate access to further learning, voluntary work, part time work, apprenticeships and even further education. We will wait to hear back from Max but he was very impressed by the determination and ambition of our young people.

Kayaking is on the agenda for Monday and pupils have been advised to wrap up warm for this. We have our Parents Evening on Tuesday 6th November 6.30-7.30pm and I am looking forward to welcoming those parents who can manage along and I know arrangements have been made to meet with those parents who can't.

Having survived Hallowe'en Happenings – and huge thanks to staff for arranging a wide variety of events for pupil last Wednesday we will be gearing up over the next two weeks for Children In Need and pupils are already asking about this, so the plan is as follows:

Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th – bake!

Thursday 15th November bring in baking for bake sale – all Meadowpark and Knox to be invited throughout the day. Tyne, Esk and Forth classes will take turns each at selling the cakes themselves.

Friday 16th November – dress in spots donate £1

Duck race: £2 raffle, ducks are chosen at random and the lucky duck wins the prize. Donations for the prize would be hugely appreciated.

We will also sell Pudsey ears for £2.50 each.

Please get involved.

C Prime. 02.11.18