

Key themes for this week's newsletter are Transition and Sustainability. We have been welcoming pupils from The Cove Provision over the past few weeks as they familiarise themselves with the way we do things at Meadowpark, and the feedback has been very positive so far. Transition of course works both ways and engaging with young people in an environment in which we are comfortable allows teachers and support staff to give of their best. I know that Steven Gilmour-Jack is looking forward to visiting The Cove next week.

Transitions are also taking place among staff and we are delighted to welcome Carol Purves to the Meadowpark team. During morning briefing as I was looking around the room it was as if she has always been here – already we are benefiting from her calm, experienced and natural way with young people.

I met with Polly Phillips from Edinburgh College today and am thrilled that she will be working with our young people over the next few weeks, building relationships and an understanding of what the future might hold for them. We will use our recently acquired skill of graphically facilitating person centred planning to assist with this process and all pupils from S3 and above will work with Polly to build a profile of interest and talent that could lead to a meaningful and sustained approach to further education after Meadowpark. Polly gave off such a positive air of possibility that I have no concern that she will soon be very much part of the team.

IDL (Inter disciplinary learning) in Class 2 is focussing on sustainability and recycling. Already a landfill site has been created although when one of the pupils showed it to me he was disappointed to notice that much of what had been buried had been unearthed. We discussed what or who might have caused this and came to the conclusion that it was either a pupil looking to retrieve the soldier that had been found during the initial digging or a hedgehog or similar rooting out the fresh grapes that had been buried. The aim of the project is to see just how effectively certain items are able to break down into useful matter. The fact that a soldier was discovered abandoned many years ago by an infant before Haddington Infants on this site ceased to exist, is an indication of just how resilient this manmade material is. Plastic has its uses but as we are all aware an over reliance on single use plastics is having a detrimental impact on the planet. We recycle as much as we can and all pupils are engaged in this, whether it's scraping leftover food into food bin or sorting our paper and plastics at lunchtime.

I also met with partnership organisations and colleagues who are keen to develop an area for gardening and a stimulating play area and the aim is to secure funding in order to pay for an area of tarmac to be lifted. We have been unsuccessful in previous application attempts and would welcome support on this venture.

If any person reading this knows of a group or organisation who can assist with this – preferably free of charge or at reduced rates please get in touch on 01620 824541.

It's been a busy, and at times challenging, Full Moon sort of week and I am looking forward not only to Monday holiday but a long cycle ride on Tuesday as part of Health and Well Being activities scheduled at Knox Academy for In service.