

MEADOWPARK MATTERS – NEWSLETTER – 07.06.19

A secondary teacher friend from mainstream school commented this week that she could see the light at the end of the tunnel, meaning of course the summer holidays and I replied that I was sure it was there somewhere but I haven't quite got sight of it yet. Having come from a primary background it took me a few years to work out why June was a quieter month in high schools: senior pupils have left and the new S1s don't establish themselves until August so most secondary teachers are currently enjoying a slightly quieter phase. In fact this is something that we can use to our advantage when preparing Meadowpark pupils to attend subject classes in mainstream which a number have this week. I am so proud of those pupils who have managed classes in Knox and their sense of achievement and enjoyment is palpable. For one pupil that meant achieving not only the confidence to go over but getting 17/19 for a Physics test having never been in the class before #whatwecando #wecandoit!

For all young people change can be challenging and this is particularly prevalent in those with additional support needs, who need consistency, continuity and enhanced transitional opportunities in order to manage potential challenges. I have met a number of parents this term who are exploring the best available education for their young people and as I share our experiences I am able to reflect on how Meadowpark has emerged, developed, changed and defined the profile here. I know what we have to offer is unique and I am proud of staff and pupils who adhere to our vision that it's all about #whatwecando and #wecandoit.

Because of work demand and sometimes having to manage young people in crisis I occasionally forget to keep my calendar up to date which can be a surprise to me when the doorbell goes and I have to rummage through my memory banks trying to locate who, what and why the visitors in front of me clearly know why they are there and I look a little confused. We all have the same outcome in mind and that is to show off what we achieve here at Meadowpark.

David Wilson/Cala Homes is a perfect example of this. For the best part of 16 months I have been liaising with an education development team from David Wilson homes about having bird boxes built by pupils to be put around the grounds of Meadowpark. Due to unforeseen circumstances within the building company the project was delayed until today when it finally took off. No problems there other than I had it in my head that they were due to come yesterday...because I hadn't written it in my diary.

Yesterday we did have Jayne Easson from Teenage Cancer Trust who spoke to Meadowpark pupils about Know My Body Love my body. Jayne was entertaining, paced the learning intentions appropriately and had our pupils motivated and engaged from start to finish. Jayne explained how challenging and isolating it can be for a teenager to have to go through cancer treatment and that as well as the treatment itself is the sense of isolation, anger and injustice that accompanies that. I think this resonated with a number of our pupils who recognised some of the steps that can be taken to improve the environments of hospital and treatment centres.

We have not been as blessed with outstanding weather as we had been this time last year but that doesn't stop our pupils getting out and about. I also happened to mention to David Wilson Homes that we are always on the lookout for Loose Parts Play – so hopefully more resources will be coming our way in the meantime the newly installed punch bag is proving a big hit (!) with pupils and staff.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Ms C Prime 07.06.19

