

Last week Tyne class enthralled us with knowledge and experience gained from studying The Picts and reminded us of the values of community and respect. This week Esk class have demonstrated their enthusiasm, knowledge and understanding of Viking life. Interestingly there are a large number of words created in the Viking tongue that we still use today – and the ones that caught my attention are Whirl, Glitter, Freckles and Beserk which is how I think the next two weeks will pass!

There was a flurry of excitement on Wednesday when Max Sykes came in to give us 10 digital cameras for Meadowpark pupils. Max told us that the Directors of Canon UK Ltd are proud to support the Digital Skills and Learning of Meadowpark students by donating a selection of digital cameras to be used to explore the exciting world of photography. Digital skills and the world of digital imaging is an exciting place, we hope the young people enjoy their new Canon cameras to explore and discover the world of digital photography.

Enabling young people to learn supports the Canon philosophy of Kyosei: <http://www.canon.com.sg/thinkbig/what-is-kyosei-canons-core-philosophy-and-dedication-to-sustainability> which lies at the heart of our brand, business and sponsorship activities. Kyosei is a Japanese word that means living and working together for the common good a principle that is embraced by all Canon employees. It shapes our mission and our values, the way we treat our people and conduct our business. We look forward to seeing the photographs taken by the young students at Meadowpark.

Thank you also to Head Teacher of Knox Academy Susan Cook and Councillor Shamin Akhtar and of course the amazing teaching staff who support the young Students. We all believe passionately that 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.

Mr. Morrison attended MIDAS driving instruction and training on Wednesday in the hope that we can use this to book minibuses for future trips.

I attended a Course Choice 'boot camp' yesterday which was a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the authority and I have to admit to being somewhat in awe of the key note speaker Joan McKay, who is Assistant Director from HMIE/Education Scotland and who reflected on where we are with regards to progress towards getting a curriculum offer that is right for every young person. Joan used humour, energy and positivity to draw on what has been learned from Developing the Young Workforce and the 15-24 Learner Journey and certainly left me with a 'Can Do' attitude.

It is exciting to be collaborating with Edinburgh College to prepare some of our young people for a positive ongoing learner pathway and the input from Polly Philips is hugely rewarding. On Tuesday Gordon Craig from SDS and I are going to meet to plan a way forward to create a bespoke package for our young people through the medium of My World Of Work <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/> a resource I have used several times when working with young people with additional support needs to make sense of their learner pathway.

Hoping to keep pupils grounded for the next nine teaching days, with some glitter, sparkle and light hearted Christmas preparations.