

## MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 12 – 10.11.17

As I write this newsletter Meadowpark teaching staff are holding our inaugural Parent Consultation Evening. It is a lovely opportunity to meet the parents of our young people as nearly all travel by taxi to and from school; such is the need of a semi-rural community. However, I am a little disappointed that the delicious smell of freshly baked cakes and cookies hasn't resulted in a tasty morsel or too for parents and staff alike, although I'm sure there are some very contented bellies waiting at home...

I've had some interesting and indeed uplifting meetings this week that has helped to focus the need for us to tighten up on positive pathways to progression, and to consider life beyond Meadowpark. Alison Hood from EL Works has a wealth of experience, contacts and enthusiasm to support us in collaborating effectively and ensure we genuinely get it right for our pupils through partnership working. Alison showed me the SCP (Schools College Partnership) Prospectus and I can envisage a number of our pupils happily participating in experiences such as gardening, boxing and technologies gaining awards and recognition for participation, alongside National Qualifications and Personal Achievement Awards. We will carefully plan for work experience that is person centred and meaningful which in turn will help to shape a plan for adult life.

I have contacted Stephanie Kennedy, also from EL Works and will arrange for our Senior Phase pupils to have 1:1 mentoring once a month, become familiar with My World of Work and begin to tentatively consider life beyond the family home and secondary school experience.

Samantha Lamond from Morrison Construction contacted me and offered a unique opportunity to collaborate by creating a mini construction site in Meadowpark playground. Morrison Construction will provide Hi-Viz clothing and hard hats, as well as real tools and materials and training in how to use these items safely. I see this as another excellent opportunity for pupils to consider possible career paths available to them in the construction industry.

Pupils are settled and happy in Meadowpark, excellent relationships and trust has been established, outdoor learning, in the local environment and wider community has instilled a sense of belonging and confidence across classes. Now it is time to evidence this good work and in line with all schools across East Lothian we will be embedding the Curriculum Frameworks and planning for a cohesive, accessible and attainable pathway of progression for all Meadowpark pupils

Today we are all dressed in blue to support the work of Bullying UK <http://www.bullying.co.uk/> and today's assembly is about healthy respect for others at all times. Next week is Anti-Bullying Week initiated by Respect Me [www.respectme.org.uk](http://www.respectme.org.uk) during which we will continue to promote a unified caring approach to all. Respect Me has a wealth of information and resources for families and schools if you or those close to you have ever been affected by bullying.

We will round off Anti-Bullying week with a Spotacular Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November in aid of Children in Need. Please encourage pupils to wear something spotty – pyjamas are welcome - bring £1 and we will have a spotty baking session and produce delicious cakes to eat on the day.

C. Prime

10.11.17

