

Happy New Year. The holidays are beginning to feel like a long time ago now and much as they were needed there is some sense of comfort with being back into a routine.

Most pupils and staff have come back refreshed and ready for the new term, apart from one or two who have been blighted by the various lurgies that persist at this time of year, and we hope they make a swift recovery. I have been hugely impressed by the ability of pupils to cope with change prior to the Christmas break and this week with staff absence which further reinforces the established and trusting relationships that have been created within Meadowpark. I am keen to extend that trust to the wider community through S6 buddying, EL Works mentoring and local business, thus building resilience, confidence and integration.

One of our senior phase pupils is preparing for the Benchmarking assessments next week and it was reassuring for her to have the opportunity to discuss this with one of our S6 volunteers, Ailsa Wrinn who has been supporting Meadowpark pupils since August 2015 along with Kara Singh. The presence of these pupils and others who have volunteered over the years has such a positive impact on Meadowpark pupils across all ages and stages that I have asked Fergus Dickson to identify a group of S6 pupils who can act as a buddy for some of our pupils – particularly those who are in the senior phase but also those who will be managing a few classes in Knox Academy. I look forward to meeting with Fergus and his team next week. I am sure there will be some familiar faces as Fergus, and Kara have been regular supporters of Meadowpark pupils.

Planning has begun for pupils coming to Meadowpark in August 2018 and we look forward to working closely with the feeder primary schools to support our new cohort. I hope they will find Meadowpark to be as stimulating and full of opportunities as I do.

I hope that in 2018 we are able to realise some of our hopes and aspirations for Meadowpark pupils as we plan further collaboration with Knox Academy, EL Works, Loose Parts Play, Morrison Construction and David Wilson Homes.

Wishing you all the very best for 2018.

Charli Prime 12.01.18