

MEADOWPARK MATTERS – 14.06.19

I might as well state the obvious and get it out of the way...the weather has been appalling this week and I moved away from the West Coast of Scotland 30 years ago precisely because of the wet weather! It has been very frustrating forcing pupils to stay indoors, to witness rain seek out the smallest egress and create mayhem and hear the moans and groans about frizzy hair, sodden shoes and battered umbrellas.

We're nothing if not resilient in Meadowpark and we have carried on as usual: the proverbial swan gliding on the water contending with new faces at Reception: a relief janitor and a changed shift for admin staff; visitors aplenty for transition visits and of course electrician and joiners to shore up the leak damage. Esk class had to be rehoused in Class 2 but when I popped my head in this morning they were all quite content knowing they had trusted adults who will provide the necessary consistency.

Our relief janitor commented that Meadowpark had been a joy to work in: he could see how dedicated the staff were, how challenging some days can be but that we go about our business serenely and confidently. He said that the ethos and atmosphere evoked a genuine sense of care and understanding for the needs of our young people.

I can see how far we have come in the last 4 years, building our curriculum, giving pupils and staff opportunities to develop confidence and create leadership which all feed back into the wider Knox Academy community, and I am genuinely excited for the coming years.

One of the many benefits of sharing a collective vision, values and aims is when they come to fruition. In the last week we have completed our bird boxes, received news that our application for trees from Alba trees has been accepted and liaised with Blooming Haddington for compost to be delivered so that we can begin populating the planters with flowers and good things to eat. This might seem like a strange time to be planting just before the holiday but I know that our intrepid learning assistant Lorna who has the greenest fingers I have ever known, and who has embraced the opportunity for sustainable ground development happens to live nearby and so can monitor growth over the holiday.

Today we welcomed another new pupil who is going to fit right in and who will bring their own energies and ideas to our community.

I have gleaned a lot about slowing the pace in times of crisis since my recent collaborative leadership workshop so that when a young person demonstrated his anxiety today I remained calm, thought carefully about the best approach, took advice from other professionals and proceeded with a considered intervention. I am pleased to report that all was well directly as a result of putting into practice some valuable lessons.

I am genuinely excited already for August and if the S6 pupil, C who came over from mainstream Knox this morning is able to deliver even a fraction of her plans for volunteering then I know that the biggest benefit will be to Meadowpark pupils.

The sun has appeared.

Have a very peaceful weekend.

Ms C Prime.

