

Technology is wonderful when it works well, and incredibly frustrating when things go wrong, especially at the last minute. As I set up the laptop for Assembly this morning I began to realise that the projector wasn't 'speaking' to the laptop, it was getting closer to 9 o'clock and my anxiety levels were beginning to increase.

I tried every possible combination of cables, connectors and on/off buttons, but nothing was working. Staff were popping in to ask if they should bring pupils through and I had to reply that things were not quite ready. I felt my stress levels build, and knew that the knock on effect for pupils would be greater than anything I was experiencing. Fortunately we are small of number and so I was able to make the decision to have Assembly in Class 2.

However, pupils had already started arriving at the hall and I had to quietly but firmly inform them that Assembly would now be in Class 2. This naturally unsettled the group and lots of questions were asked – 'Is Assembly finished?' 'Where is Assembly?' 'Do we have Assembly?' Staff were quick to offer reassurance because they know Meadowpark pupils and recognise that a sudden change can be a trigger to moments of crisis. Pupils duly turned round and we all assembled in Class 2 to discuss and plan ahead for our visitors from HMIE next week.

What struck me throughout this process was how quickly pupils relied on the support of the trusted adults with whom they have built excellent relationships. As Meadowpark continues to expand and we plan our transitions for pupils coming in August we are bound to encounter many situations that will alter the status quo for pupils and staff but I am confident that the processes we are putting in place with Positive Handling Plans, regular learning conversations to develop IEP targets, and a culture of dignity and respect we will be cope with a changing roll.

Two pupils from Class 2 have made huge steps towards their personal goals this week by accessing classes in Knox Academy. Oliver Lincoln now attends Music and Science and Daniel Murray successfully attended Maths. We continue to build positive relationships with pupils and staff across our wider school community and plan to increase and develop links that will empower pupils to have confidence in their abilities and celebrate achievements. Our responsibility as staff is to ensure that we are offering appropriate support and challenge and that our goal is to assist all Meadowpark pupils to believe in a progressive inclusion into a wider society. We have to work WITH our young people and not do things FOR them.

David Watt left us with this thought provoking quote: 'Help me to communicate what it is I want I want.'

C. Prime DHT 16.03.18