

Meadowpark Matters - Newsletter - Friday 31st May

Taking a group to Dounans Outdoor Centre was an opportunity to see the majority of our young people at their very best. Young people who have such a very different take on life participated in team building activities, piled plates high with foods that had previously been banished by them and laughed. They dug into their own reserves for self-regulation by following comforting rituals and trusting that all of us there were on that journey together.

I got to witness the very best of what can be achieved when expectations are high and each individual is supported and encouraged to be of their very best.

Lessons have been learned on so many levels: staffing, venue, communication but hindsight is a wonderful thing and the only thing that gives us 20/20 vision. To see all our young people participate in a steep hill climb in order to admire an outstanding view, to talk and laugh freely, to be unencumbered with the daily routines of school was a moment to treasure.

Canoeing, archery, hill walking, rope challenge, team building, tree climb, sleeping away from home, campfire and disco were all on offer and mostly achieved. All out daytime activities were safely supported by Dounans staff.

I hope we can garner enough interest for a repeat visit either to Dounans or elsewhere in two years' time.



Of those young people who remained at school a number went to 5 Sister's Zoo, joined in with orienteering and celebrated the end of the week with a barbecue.

I have been on my own reflective journey when I was given an incredible opportunity to join in the SEIC Collaborative Leadership Workshops on Friday and Saturday. Already the group have been WhatsApp-ing with a sense of unconditional support and care for each other. The sessions were led by drew Drummond of Drummond International and I was delighted to meet his father Prof

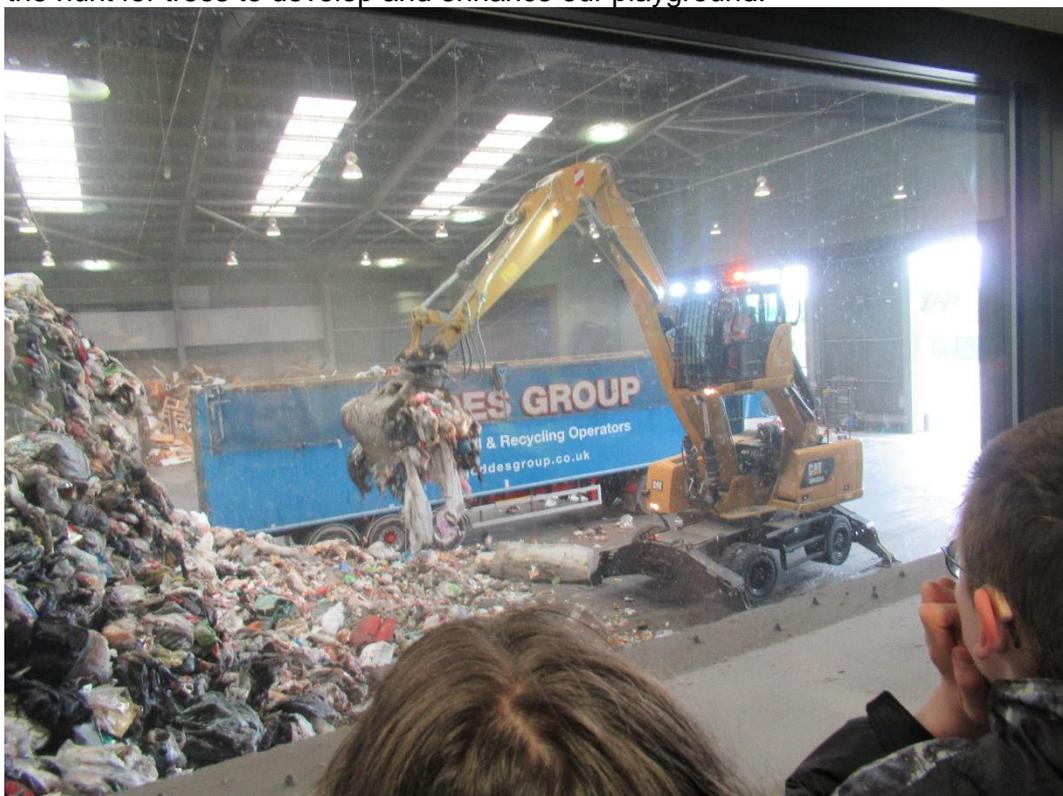
Norman Drummond at the BGE Graduation ceremony today were we celebrated the end of the BGE and all that our young people in S3 have achieved in the past 3 years.

I was incredibly proud to introduce Meadowpark S3 cohort as they came onto the stage to accept their awards.

Meadowpark matters and we are all proud to belong to Knox Academy and uphold the values and visions associated with the mainstream element of our school community. The pathway for any young person with additional support needs is never straight forward - there are many twists and turns, hills to climb and sometime dark tunnels to emerge from but we are well prepared, we have robust systems in place to ensure pace and progression through the Broad General Education which is underpinned by the East Lothian Curriculum Frameworks and above all we have goals and ambitions to achieve. I am incredibly in awe of our young people for whom daily life can be a challenge and so to present them with their BGE Achievement Award was my privilege.

Transition continues in earnest and we look forward not only to welcoming Mr Nick Swanston as class teacher to the Meadowpark team but a number of pupils coming from across the authority. The new Knox Academy timetable begins on the 3rd of June which coincides with the Common School Day and therefore as a team we have decided not to move any of the classes around before the end of term but to talk gently and timeously about change for August. Pupils will get to see their new classes if they are moving and we look forward to developing a range of subjects that can be taught in Meadowpark all the while encouraging those who are capable to attend appropriate subjects in Knox Academy.

Pupils attended a field trip to Kinwegar on Monday morning to witness exactly what becomes of our rubbish and without a doubt everyone got a lot from the visit which has continued to build on our Eco –friendly approach to school life. We are avidly creating plastic bricks and Ms Will has been on the hunt for trees to develop and enhance our playground.



Have a peaceful weekend and remember to reduce, reuse, recycle - it's all about #whatwecando and #wecandoit.

Ms C Prime 31.05.19