

MEADOWPARK MATTERS NEWSLETTER 04.09.2020

Pupils and staff are getting into their stride this week as a sense of the new normal starts to embed itself: routines, safety measures, timetables and trust are being established to offer reassurance and connection.

A number of young people are still navigating their way which is to be expected and so we are listening and being sensitive to their needs while trying to reassure and instil the sense that Meadowpark is a safe and comfortable place to be where young people can connect with each other and the wider community.

We had our second virtual assembly today and I had a genuine sense that all those who had joined independently of their class groups were engaged and interested by the theme today: celebrating achievement.

We have a number of pupils who will be receiving awards at Knox Academy virtual Awards Ceremony on 30th September and I was delighted to read out their names today. But you will have to wait for the big reveal after Awards night.

On Tuesday I participated in the online Parent Council Partnership meeting when the achievements of Meadowpark pupils was further applauded by Mrs Clubb who made mention of the SQA qualifications gained by a number of Meadowpark pupils at National 3 level. Mrs Clubb reminded us all that all achievements should be recognised at whatever level and that for many young people the traditional route for exams is not appropriate. With many questions still being asked about formal qualifications, Mr Russell asserted that we all need to be braver about considering a need for change and a move away from the traditional route. I reaffirmed this with reference not only to the current climate of learning in a pandemic but for young people who require a prolonged path to learning.

We concluded assembly with Tyne class showing off their Sponge Bob Pants themed painted rocks at assembly. I was reminded of lockdown when leaving and swapping painted rocks became a community endeavour across the county. I gather that the rock snake between Port Seton and Prestonpans is to be made into a permanent feature:

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/rock-snake-symbol-joy-east-lothian-town-2867843>

I have asked young people and staff to share their weekly achievements with me so that I can highlight these at our weekly assembly. Ironically having to use online technology for meetings has given me and I suspect pupils a greater sense of connection because rather than sitting in rows they are all looking at each other, reflecting back happy smiles and raised thumbs.

Have a peaceful weekend

Ms C Prime 04.09.2020