

MEADOWPARK MATTERS NEWSLETTER 16.08.19

I hope you all had a relaxing a peaceful summer. Although the weather wasn't quite what we experienced in 2018 there were plenty of good days to be out and about to enjoy local attractions for those who weren't venturing further afield.

I spent my holiday in Scotland – both at home in East Lothian and North in Applecross. The changeable weather meant that for once I was able to tackle some severely outstanding de-cluttering inside and when the sun shone focussed my attentions outside in the garden.

On Wednesday I could hardly believe I was uttering that immortal phrase 'My haven't you grown?' as pupils entered into the playground, some more hesitantly than others, all with a smile on their faces, and without a doubt everyone had increased in height by a good 2-3 inches.

As is the way we have all slipped back into our routines and I am deeply impressed with the calmness, sensibility and positive attitude our young people have returned with after the break, accepting new pupils in classes and new staff in the building: teacher, support staff, admin, art therapy and facilities. It is a clear indication to me that we are getting it right on so many levels if our young people can return after a 6 week break and settle back happily to school #whatwecando #wecandoit.

There are countless opportunities for learning and participating in activities in and outwith the school environment and we plan to build on what we have learned over the past four years to be able to offer Meadowpark pupils a wide and varied experience using East Lothian Curriculum Frameworks, Outdoor learning, Edinburgh College, Amisfield Garden, Wee Red Upcycles and other partner organisations as well as increasing the certificate portfolio through National 3s, National 4s and working towards National 5.

The session has got off to a particularly excellent collaborative and financial start as we will soon be in receipt of a generous donation of £8000 from 4 of the developers working locally. We will continue to work in conjunction with ELSNPS, LAS and HPP in order to enhance a community experience for staff pupils and residents of Haddington. We have ambitious plans which I know with continued hard work, effort and community involvement we will see to fruition.

Finally I was delighted that 2 members of the senior leadership team (pupils) came over to outline their vision for supporting and connecting Meadowpark and Knox Academy. These include commonality of signage across the school, Inter-house activities, S3 electives opportunities, raising awareness of autism and volunteering opportunities.

I wish all pupils, staff and parents an energetic, successful and exciting new session.

Ms C Prime 16.08.19