

Sitting where I do in my office near the front door at Meadowpark my curiosity is often piqued when the bell goes and I wonder who our visitor might be. Most often it is one of our pupils returning from the daily mile or a shopping expedition, who has marched ahead of their group and pressed the bell several times enjoying the sound sensory feedback from the ringing, waiting in anticipation for the door to open as if by magic now that we have a remote access button. We have cottoned on to this though and the safety rule is that pupils do not enter the building without the adult in charge and so in spite of their endeavours the young person will be asked to wait.

An increasing number of our young people are accessing classes in Knox Academy mainstream and the sense of achievement and progression is palpable. I am so thankful for the 'strengthening bonds' that are being created not only with staff and pupils but the senior leadership team. Have a look in this week's East Lothian Courier and you will see how much positive involvement there is. We have always been very well supported with volunteers and I am genuinely thrilled to have participation from the SQA Leadership Award group who have blown us away with their ideas and enthusiasm as well as the head pupils who are passionate about providing a unified, collegiate approach to inclusion.

We have seen two of our pupils take momentous strides this week by attending Access to Continuing Education (ACE) courses at Edinburgh College: one will be going 2 afternoons a week and the other all day Thursday. Furthermore I attended a meeting on Wednesday at the college and really enjoyed connecting with former colleagues from City of Edinburgh Council specialist school provisions: Pilrig Park, Kaimes, Woodlands and Braidburn. Despite the many differences in our pupil cohorts the aim is the same: to ensure that all our young people who require additional support are given the very best opportunities and that it is beholden to us to assist with this and to keep our expectations of individual capacity as high as possible. I will be developing further links with Edinburgh College and DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) to enable pupil progression.

Sue Cook, our Head Teacher popped in yesterday to see staff and pupils and was slightly disappointed that there was an absence of bodies in the school but equally delighted that is because pupils are either participating in outdoor activities/swimming or attending classes in Knox. We continue to offer a consistent approach and positive attitude and this is being reflected now in the trust and confidence our young people have in us. It can feel like standing at the foot of the mountain and being overwhelmed that the journey is too much of a challenge but by taking small well-formed and careful steps with those we trust we can expect to reach the top. A dream without a plan is just a wish and our wish is that all Meadowpark pupils continue to be given the best quality educational experience available to us and we plan to make that happen.

Have a peaceful weekend.

Ms C Prime 30.08.19