

As the days are getting longer and lighter and thoughts turn to Spring I was contacted by the education representative from David Wilson Homes this week asking if we were still keen to put bird boxes up around the school grounds. Naturally, I chirpily replied, indeed we are. I am hopeful that this will take place before Easter, so that both pupils and birds can benefit and we can monitor the activity of our feathered friends.

Pupils are naturally drawn to being outdoors and have learned to use whatever they find to regulate or stimulate sensory need. This week some of the planks that have been set aside for the Playpod had been creatively manoeuvred onto the tyres. The planks are sturdy enough to withstand the young people bouncing on them so I did not have the heart to remove them in case they were broken and so play happily continued.

On Mondays we held a very successful meeting for a young person who will be transitioning from school next year. Jennifer Jones from SDS was in attendance and was able to reassure mum that the My World of Work website would indeed be able to support R's desires to eventually work outside, whether in a horticultural environment or with animals. AnimalMe! Was used in Esk class and R was a Black Bear indicating a strong sense of justice and preference for working outside. Mum realised that she was looking at her son as a young man and no longer a boy and so was happy to set up further opportunities to meet with Jennifer Jones so that transition to college can begin. We have planned for this approach as part of our Senior Phase and having then met with Steven Craig on Wednesday I was further reassured that the courses and opportunities available at Edinburgh College are well suited to our cohort. In fact I came away thinking that while the national debate around inclusion rages, and whether we should be considering special school, hubs/bases/units attached to mainstream, Edinburgh College have got it right.

I am going to join them to hear more about the Access to Continuing Education on Thursday which I am really looking forward to. Having prepared large number of people for Entry to Education and Entry to Work and Life Skills in the past 14 year is about time I paid them a visit myself!

Next week is Eco-Week which we discussed at assembly this morning, and I was able to relay the excellent work that has been ongoing with the Eco committee in Knox Academy led by Miss Laudi. We are participating in a scheme to reuse milk bottle tops which COOP then donate for the Food banks as well as having our own recycling team who collect boxes from classrooms. When I was on lunch duty during the week I was delighted to see all our young people using the appropriate recycling boxes when they had finished their lunch. I reminded all staff and pupils that Scotland has some of the best drinking water in the world and so there really was no need for anyone to be buying bottled water, but instead should be carrying their own water bottles.

Have a peaceful and eco-friendly weekend.

C. Prime 08.03.19