

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 22 – 11.01.19

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and one that I believe will be packed with innovation and development for Meadowpark pupils.

I attended the S3-S6 coursing evening on Wednesday and have to say that what I didn't fully understand about learner pathways I certainly do now. The presentations by Knox Academy staff, Caroline Falconer and John Taylor, alongside enthusiastic and meaningful presentations from EL Works, SDS, Edinburgh College, Dunbar Grammar School (as featured in East Lothian Courier this week) and a real life story from a former pupil gave me a full and clear picture and enhanced understanding of pathways available to our young people.

Further information on course choices and presentations are available on the Knox Academy website <https://www.ka-net.org.uk/curriculum/course-choice>.

On the back of this I spoke to Forth class yesterday and reminded pupils that in spite of the challenges presented by their autism diagnosis they are in the throes of very exciting times in terms of career prospects and opportunities to achieve their goals and realise dreams. Furthermore I reminded them that the responsibility for achieving success lies with them and with continued support as necessary from agencies, mentors, family and school.

Transition is a partnership between schools - pupils and staff and parents. Not one of us or any of the organisations can do this single handed, but by collaborating and cooperating, asking questions, becoming engaged, I firmly believe that we will see some of our young people really excel in the areas of further study and work place.

We have already begun to engage with our career advisor, Jennifer Jones, from Skills Development Scotland and have had regular input from Polly Phillips from Edinburgh College: <http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/Welcome/Centres/College-Community/Access-and-Continuing-Education>

Stephanie Kennedy from EL Works is helping to set up some work experience for two young people and all teachers are exploring the wide range of learner pathways including vocational. https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210595/east_lothian_works

As much as we are planning for transition for our young people to make course choices and consider lifetime opportunities upon leaving school we will begin to plan and prepare for the next intake due to arrive here in August 2019 by creating enhanced transition opportunities with pupils from The Cove and other schools as deemed appropriate.

We are on track to have a fourth classroom in operation by August 2019 which will again provide a shift and change in dynamics across the school and provide us with deeper and wide reaching opportunities for training, learning and development.

Many people moan about January being a long, dark month but as they say in Clackmannanshire 'Look about ye' – the days are getting longer and we have the benefit of a shorter term before the next break.

We are looking to develop our resources through ongoing fund-raising and collaboration with Loose Parts Play and currently awaiting the decision of Haddington Area Partnership for funding Art Therapy, having secured some funding from 2 of the APs.

Have a peaceful weekend.

C Prime 11.01.19