



FLORA NEWS



Head's Blog

Headteachers with beards are the worst in the Country

The problem with educational research is that it is now so easy to find the data to back up any old nonsensical proposition. My own razor-sharp research here, for instance, is based on just one wet afternoon's work over half-term, mulling over the highest and lowest positions in the 2019 state secondary school league tables. The assertion I could make from so doing is that Headteachers with beards tend to be the worst in the country.

The evidence? Well, if we start by looking at school websites or local media photos of male leaders at the top 30 Progress 8-scoring schools on the table, we find that there is not a single secular beard – just a couple grown for reasons of religion.

Facial foliage

There is, admittedly, a hint of stubble on the faces of the men in charge at Mossbourne Community Academy and Dixons Unity Academy, but plainly not enough facial foliage to have had any adverse effect on their students' GCSE performances last summer.

I found just two beards in the entire top 50. Male heads at those high-performing state schools were almost universally clean-shaven.

In contrast, when I examined the chins of male leaders at the wrong end of that Progress 8 list (excluding special schools), there was an absolute forest. Of the 17 male heads in the lowest-scoring 30 schools, no fewer than 10 of them had beards.

Blades equal grades

After securing lucrative sponsorship from Gillette or Wilkinson, I could use my research to burst on to that lucrative circuit of conferences and school Insets, selling my overpowering "blades equal grades" message using a suitably smooth sequence of PowerPoint slides.

Current and aspiring male heads could all become clean-shaven within a matter of months. No more growth mindset for them – not after Movember, anyway.

Scrolling and flitting

The spurious theory can breed and thrive in education today because we, the customers, have little time, and are thus in no position to scrutinise and challenge.

The fact is that as Teachers, Parents and Leaders we get very little time to read in depth articles about education, or really dig deep on what is happening with funding. **What are the major political parties really offering education at the forthcoming General Election?** I have looked at the finances for next year and the "Boris Billions", as widely reported, is clearly avoiding Hammersmith.....

One probability, for instance, is that some busy people will just read the headline of this Blog and perhaps even choose to take the beard message at, er, face value. They will miss the whole point, I will be told to have a shave, which will, of course, further illustrate that point.

We attended a Panathlon tournament and finished 4th in the competition!



We have an assortment of goodies from the The Royal Legion Poppy Appeal in the school office. Each item has a suggested donation attached to it and all money raised will go to the charity.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We have come to the end of Black History Month 2019. We have had two very fun dress up days, assemblies and lots of projects and work carried out in class. Some classes wrote diary entries from the perspective of famous African-Americans who changed history, including Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks.



Alma Woodsey Thomas was an African-American Expressionist painter, best known for her colourful abstract paintings. Year 5 and 6 pupils had a go at painting in her style and this is what they produced. All of this work will soon be on display for you to see!



**Thursday 14th
November**

**Nursery & Reception
2.45 – 4.00pm**

**All other classes
5.00 – 7.00pm**

(pupils should be collected at 3.30pm and brought back at 5.00pm if they are attending).

Tickets are £2.50 each and can be purchased from Miss Kelly in the playground (by the tuck shop) from next week.

Snacks can be purchased on the night for 50p per item.

When the Year 5 and 6 farmers returned from Nethercott, there were some items of clothing left on the coach. Please see Mrs Brand if your child lost any items on the trip.

PTA Coffee Morning

Monday 11th November in the old office. All parents are welcome to attend to discuss upcoming fundraising events.

Value Award Winners

- Nursery – Samia
- Reception – Amiyah
- Year 1 – Sofia E
- Year 2 – Joaquin
- Year 3 – Kevin
- Year 4 – Mila
- Year 5 – Mohamed
- Year 6 – Kayden
- PE – Waddah Y6
- Music – Iqra Y6