



Hotspur

Bulletin

Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This weekend I will be in Bristol for a reunion of some people involved in the No Outsiders project which a few of you will remember Hotspur being involved in twelve years ago. Celebrating diversity and inclusion was at the heart of No Outsiders with a specific focus on sexual orientation – specifically to tackle the high levels of homophobic bullying in schools and its devastating, sometimes fatal, consequences. At the time this work was controversial – the Daily Mail was vehemently opposed to it (which is often a good indicator of the validity of pedagogical development) – and the group of educators became bound together by a shared belief in the importance of the work, mutual respect and a genuine fear that we would be vilified by the press. Initially the fifteen participating schools were not named for this reason. Although the group is spread over the country we have continued to meet from time-to-time and collaborate on other projects with some strong friendships being formed.



The reunion this weekend was in response to one of the group being diagnosed with terminal cancer and a hope that we would meet with her a last time. Unfortunately Sue East died the week before Christmas aged 58 and still in post as a Headteacher. This is obviously extremely sad and personally I have been very upset by it. Sue was a remarkable person who up until her death continued to promote equality and diversity in schools, explore difficult and challenging issues and champion the importance of creativity and the arts in education. She was a founder of an innovative 'Schools Without Walls' project with the Egg Theatre in Bath which pushes the boundaries of our understanding of schooling. As her death approached she wrote movingly to her pupils to say that she was dying and encouraging them to remember that 'fairy dust is to be found in every situation, no matter how difficult'. In response to this children drew pictures of fairies, rainbows and butterflies that were used to decorate her coffin. Her funeral was this week in Bath Abbey. A friend that was there says it was a wonderful celebration of her life which incorporated 900 flowers made by children to wave as the coffin was carried out.

The reunion tomorrow will undoubtedly be emotional, but we will also reflect on the shift in many people's attitudes to the issues that initially brought us together, whilst at the same time recognising the ongoing reality that there is global imperative to combat hate crime and help children to develop tolerance and respect for those that are different to them. Sue, a committed Christian, firmly believed that diversity should be understood, celebrated and encouraged rather than feared, condemned and eradicated. I will remember a feisty, visionary and compassionate colleague who became a valued friend. I will endeavour to continue to fight for those things that she held so dear – although I am less keen on having children's drawings on my coffin!

Miles Wallis-Clarke
Headteacher



Events next week

Monday

- Reception - Dentist visit 1pm
- Y6 Art afternoon

Tuesday

- Y1 - Dentist visit 1pm
- GB: Community 4.30pm

Wednesday

- Y5/6 High5 netball tournament

Thursday

- GB: Finance 8am

Golden Children This Week



Year 4 visit to the Laing Art Gallery

This week, Year 4 visited the Laing Art Gallery to do an African print workshop as part of their 'I have a dream' project for this term. They did some fabulous artwork and learned some interesting techniques.



Hotspur Showcase Update

Eight judges from Y5 and Y6 led the assemblies on Monday informing children about the Showcase. During lunchtimes this week 65 acts that applied to perform have been auditioning. 20 of these will be selected with the others having additional time to prepare their acts for the in-school comic relief event later this term. The auditions are showing that it promises to be a good evening. Tickets are available from the office - £1 for adults and free for children. Please get them in advance so we can anticipate the numbers.

Y5/6 Basketball

There has been three evenings of Basketball fixtures for the Year 5 & 6 Basketball team at Walker Academy. The team finished 2nd out of 7 teams which is a fantastic achievement!

