

# Differentiation, Pace and Challenge

## Holy Rood Cluster In-service Day

7 January 2020

*On the In-service Day of Tuesday 7 January, Holy Rood RC welcomed Cluster Primary colleagues from St Ninians, St Catherine's, St Mary's, St John Vianney's, St Francis' and St John's Primary Schools. The focus of the morning was differentiation and the session was led by the Edinburgh Learns Team (Shelley Graham and Mairi McDermott).*

The session was tailored around the needs of staff. The course itself centred around the key questions of what differentiation is and what strategies can be used to ensure good pace and challenge for all pupils in their learning. It also explored the use of prior knowledge and how process, environment and product are all vital

to differentiating lessons. Teachers were continually challenged to how they could incorporate what they were learning into their own practice and into their school.

Primary and secondary colleagues were grouped together to share and discuss good, best and next practice and it provided an exciting opportunity for them to work and learn collaboratively. The feedback from staff was very positive. There was clear signs of improved confidence and capacity among staff. There was clear evidence that the event was going to have an impact on practice in classroom and schools.

**Andrew Rooney**  
**Attainment Development Officer**  
**Holy Rood RC High School**

WELCOME

## WHEC Cluster Christmas Concert 2020

*Plato argued, 'Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education.' At Wester Hailes Education Centre we have seen this first hand and celebrated these achievements through our recent Cluster Christmas Concert which saw the Wester Hailes cluster schools come together for a festive celebration of musical talent in our community.*

This combined concert included; Canal View, Sighthill and Clovenstone Primaries singing two songs each to a packed auditorium. The concert also showcased some of our talented students from the WHEC music department who sang in groups, bands and performed solo pieces.

The concert was also an opportunity to showcase our three-year partnership with the Scottish

Chamber Orchestra across the community. In WHEC, this involved a group of students from across a range of year groups, coming together to participate in workshops with professional musicians. Based around composing live music, the workshops aim to build confidence and improve performance skills. Something which has been incredibly successful, as the workshops have had a significant impact on the abilities and musicianship of the pupils involved. This was evident at our concert where the second half of the evening saw the Scottish Chamber Orchestra perform with our young people, presenting a range of songs and pieces of music based on the theme 'winter'.

After the success of our Cluster concert, we look forward to working collaboratively in the future, as music continues to play an integral part in the Wester Hailes community.

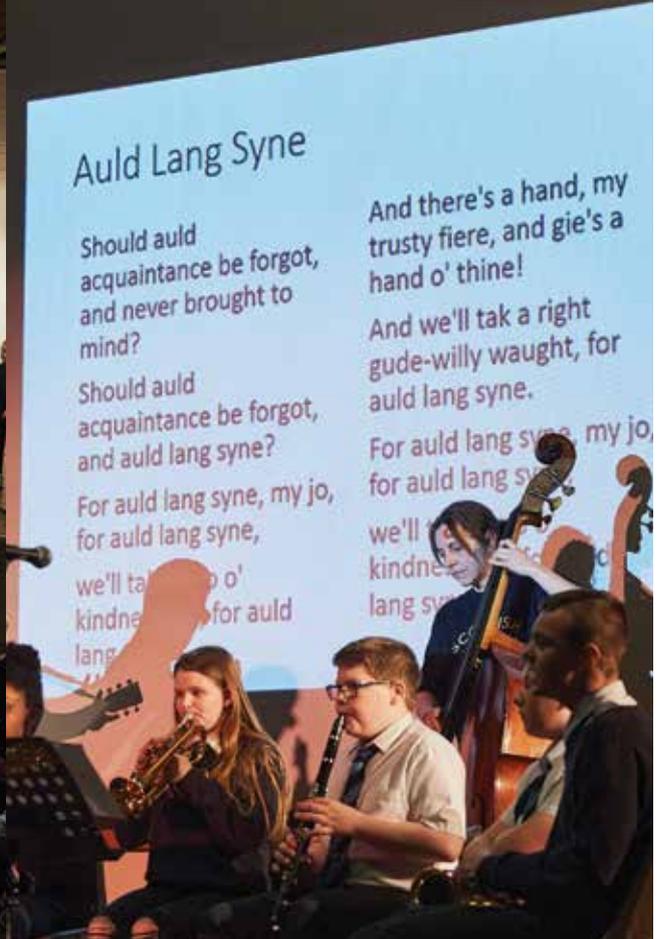
**Greer Ogston**  
Curriculum Leader of Expressive Arts

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# WHEC Cluster Christmas Concert





## Humanutopia Visits WHEC

*Wester Hailes Education Centre had the privilege of working with Humanutopia and we were fortunate enough to have them work with all of our pupils from S2–S6. It was an incredible experience for all involved. Steve and Mohammed took our pupils through three days of workshops with the intention of improving the mental health & wellbeing of pupils. The company work with young people to empower them to make positive changes in their lives and improve their opportunities in life by developing a range of life skills which will help individuals to become more employable. They also provide leadership and volunteering opportunities through the Heroes mentoring programme. Below is an outline of what the 3 days involved.*

### Day 1 – S4–6 Who Am I?

Our senior pupils (S4–6) worked with Mohammed and Steve for a full day in which they were encouraged to take control of their lives by making better choices.

### Day 2 – Heroes Training

Following day 1, senior pupils were invited to volunteer as 'Heroes' and become mentors and positive role models for our younger pupils in school. 29 of our young people volunteered and

the team were put through their paces through a variety of communication, leadership and team building exercises. Their skills were then put to the test as they ran afternoon workshops for P7 pupils from our cluster primary schools.

### Day 3 – S2 and S3 Who am I?

The S2 and S3 pupils were taken through the same Who Am I? programme as the seniors, but the session was led by Steve and Mohammed, as well as our senior Heroes. Our junior pupils demonstrated excellent maturity and engagement throughout the day, and our Heroes were very confident in leading their individual groups throughout.

### Next Steps

To allow our young people to further develop their skills they acquired through their training, and to develop the positive transition work within our cluster, we will be arranging opportunities for our Hero Mentors to work with our 3 cluster primaries with a range of P6 and P7 classes. They will look at a range of team building exercises whilst also touching on sensitive issues such as anti-Bullying and equality for all. We are hopeful that this will not only develop the leadership skills of our senior pupils, but will also build our primary pupils confidence and ease the difficult transition from primary education to secondary.

**Ellie Meikle**  
**Pupil Support Leader**  
**Wester Hailes Education Centre**

# Humanutopia Visits WHEC



# School meals food contracts providing community benefits funding for schools

*The school catering service have utilised the community benefits commitment from Brakes foodservice to offer funding for schools to develop projects within their school communities.*

Our procurement team include community benefit clauses within contracts as one way of building sustainability. These are social, economic and environmental benefits that are delivered by suppliers in addition to meeting the core requirements of the contract and include providing community resources.

Applications were made through the school catering teams and four schools were successful in their bids; Corstorphine Primary School, Gylemuir Primary School, Liberton High School and Redhall School. Each had very different plans for the funding and not all food related!

## Edible plants and herbs

Corstorphine Primary School have been working closely with the catering team, pupils and parents to look at food and encourage healthier choices at lunch times. They have worked with the school PTA and held an open day for parents and children around healthy and sustainable packed lunches, while also promoting the benefits of a school lunch. They have also worked with George Andersons, the fruit and vegetable supplier, to introduce the children to a range of new fruit and vegetables including edible flowers. The Brakes funding will be used to further develop this work and buy planters, soil and edible plants for children to grow in conjunction with the kitchen team.

## Guinea Pigs

The Depute Head Teacher at Gylemuir explains their plans:

*'Things have been go, go, go at Gylemuir Primary School since hearing about our successful funding bid from the Brakes Community Benefits Fund. We have welcomed two baby guinea pigs into the fold to be nurtured and cared for by the whole school community. P2 children did their research and wrote shopping lists for a trip to buy supplies in anticipation of our new arrivals. The*

*whole school was involved in choosing names for our new four-legged friends and 'Chocolate' and 'Chip' are now well and truly settled in! This week, children in the nurture base have been developing their skills in caring for living things taking responsibility for feeding, handling and exercising the guinea pigs.*

*Teams of P1-P7 children at our 'Gylemuir Gatherings' have been putting their problem-solving skills to the test and having great fun with their outdoor learning building guinea pig obstacle courses from found materials. Others have been enjoying the calming influence of the guinea pigs during quiet reading and reflection time. Once they are more settled, Chocolate and Chip will begin a 'Classroom Safari' spending a week in different classes allowing children across the school to build their confidence and skills in caring for small animals.'*

## Playground improvements

Redhall School's Depute Headteacher outlines their bid:

*'Redhall School is around 10 years old and we have lovely, child friendly play equipment but it is getting a bit worn and tired. We have a big area for bikes and this is very popular but unstructured and in need of an upgrade.*

*We hope the children will have a better play area with a proper bike track. It will mean the children will be safer and we can use the area to teach key safety skills. It will also promote other social skills such as turn taking, recognition of numbers and signs and attention. The Pupil Council have met and agreed on what we need for the school. Now we have received this funding we can start putting their plans into action.'*

## Toaster and bread maker

Sometimes it's the simple things that can make a big difference and Liberton High School's lead for '1 in 5' applied for funding to support their breakfast club:

*'We have a very well attended breakfast club. So well attended that our toaster has stopped working. As we go through more than 60 pieces of toast each morning it is essential that we get a new toaster. We priced industrial toasters (6 slice toasters and the ones that you get in hotels) and they are more expensive than we initially thought.'*

*As a member of FareShare, some weeks we don't get any bread donated to us, so we also wanted to buy a bread maker to allow us to make our own.'*

*We want to ensure that everyone starts their day off with the opportunity to have breakfast. We know the adverse impact that missing breakfast can have on learning. Therefore, we hope that the funding will help to increase concentration for some of our young people and in turn raise attainment.'*

### **Although school food was popular it seems the catering staff are the stars of the show!**

As part of the application process schools were asked what pupils liked most about school meals.

*'The dinner ladies make food that you want. You can tell them what you want and they will make it if they can. They made pulled pork ciabattas – I told them I liked them and they made them more often. They are really kind. They are doing it for the kids not themselves.'*

### **S2 Liberton High**

*'The dinner ladies are very nice. I mostly have a sandwich but there is plenty of choice. Sometimes I get the cooked meals and they are very nutritious.'*

### **S3 – Liberton High School**

*'The school lunches are absolutely amazing, fresh produce and good quality foods are used everyday. They are extremely popular and provide good food for everyone. The staff are lovely, welcoming and are always happy to help.'*

### **S5 – Liberton High School**

*'Our kitchen staff are an integral part of the school and they contribute to the success of the school – a particular favourite is the salad bar.'*

### **Corstorphine Primary School**

*'Our kitchen staff at Gylemuir are fab – they have a great relationship with pupils and are the eyes and ears of the school.'*

### **Gylemuir Primary School**

*'Children like the food – especially chips and pizza. The catering staff know all the children by name, they are friendly, helpful and encouraging. They help the children to be as independent as possible. They are also good fun and help out at special occasions such as Christmas, Red Nose Day, etc.'*

### **Redhall School**

**Laura Nisbet, Development Officer  
Food and Health**

## **Craigmount Cluster — MWOW**

*This year we are trialling using the MWOW of work profiles as part of our cluster transition programme. Each of the five primary schools in in the cluster (Corstorphine, East Craigs, Fox Covert, Hillwood, Roseburn) have identified P7 leaders from each P7 class. Amber Beatson (SDS) came to Craigmount on 21st January and trained the P7 leaders alongside Craigmount's S3&S6 MWOW ambassadors. The aim of this training session was to familiarise the P7 leaders and the S3/6 Ambassadors*

*with the tools available on [www.myworldofwork.co.uk/ican](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/ican) so that they can support the P7 classes to use these tools and develop their P7 profile.*

Over the next two weeks the S3/6 Ambassadors will visit the nine P7 classes to support them getting started on MWOW. P7 will continue to build their profiles next term which will be used during our transition. Our plan is to register all P7 with their personal MWOW profile during an ICT lesson during the three day transition visit.

This is an exciting project that is improving our understanding and use of MWOW across the cluster, creating P7 leaders and strengthening our links between students in all schools.

**Karen Coull, Depute Head Teacher  
Craigmount High School**

