



Faith in Futures

Written by Alan Pearson

I had just finished a can of IPA – a strange way to start a BLOG – I know!

I was studying what was on the can; ingredients, artwork, title... and I stopped to think... 'Faith in Futures' what does this mean and what is the relevance to education?

Faith? Future? Then it hit me –the link with a central school value – teaching your child today for their tomorrow, or their future. I am a firm believer in Education to provide life chances and life choices, a major factor of why I do what I do.

Attendance, being here 100% and giving 100%, children growing stronger with essential skills that will allow them to access the curriculum with success and not frustration. Being successful in the next chapter of their education and when the time is right pupils can make choices.

It is difficult to predict the future, you only have to watch one of my favourite 80s films back to the future, hover boards and time machines...? I think it is true and worthy to say the future will present jobs that we haven't even thought of! Something educator leaders are constantly debating, ICT skills, technological and engineering the use of Artificial Intelligence and what should be in the curriculum. Maybe because I can't find someone; carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills?

What seems to still be significant in the current curriculum is competent handwriting and the skills of making marks and shapes with pen and pencil, something quite archaic, but important – especially with the end of year testing for ten and eleven-year-old pupils – something that is used less frequently by some later on in life.

When and will these tests become electronic?

However, back to the beer can and Faith in Futures, the importance of children and as they grow, their civic responsibility and their contribution to society, their future. What will their future look like, what will their community look like, a thought than ran through my mind recently while picking up litter with our school eco- monitors. Something a child may find quite abstract– the world of work and the what can be offered and what they can offer. What a child is doing in the classroom today, the skills they learn today and how this links to their tomorrow is key and how schools make this link tangible is a worthwhile discussion point.

I often talk in assembly about this importance of attendance and timekeeping for school and for when children grow older, in their place of work, the importance of maths, reading and writing and its place in the world of work. A report shared with me by my deputy recently; the impact of school absence on lifetime earnings highlights the connections between school absence and earnings, reduced earnings linked to absence and in addition increased odds of claiming benefits!

For many years we have enrolled in the Brilliant Club and organisations that exposes children (all children to university), the children undertake assignments and visits to universities, something I think is most important.

However, do we and other schools do enough to get a successful business persons or tradespersons into schools to talk to children regarding how school and learning skills help in the world of work, science, geography.....? Probably not, but something I am striving to do better.

So to conclude; have faith in what we do at school, faith in why you do what you do for the betterment of the pupils' future.

Have faith in the children and have faith in their future.