



Headlines-Issue 2, December 2018

Education is rarely out of the news at the moment it seems. The programme 'Schools' which has aired on BBC2 on a Tuesday night has forced the issue of school funding in to the spotlight. As the programme highlights these are difficult and challenging times for Headteachers and schools everywhere. However what the programme emphasised for me more than anything was that no matter how difficult the circumstances, brilliant staff will always shine through.

We are lucky at Axe Valley to be blessed with a high number of such staff who will simply not accept no as an answer. Staff who go the extra mile without being asked to just because they believe that it is the right thing to do. When I am training young staff I will often ask them the following question:- 'What profession do you believe has the biggest influence on young peoples' lives?' I am obviously after a certain answer but occasionally someone will challenge me with an answer stating the case for Doctors or Surgeons. My comeback is always the same, 'Yes, but who teaches the Doctors?' I came in to the profession over thirty years ago wanting to change the world and make a difference. I still have that passion today even though in my present role I have to find alternative ways to do this rather than in my day to day teaching. I remain convinced that a great school has a great teacher in every classroom. Yes, the present climate is tough but teaching is still teaching and at its best it still has the power to transform lives.

On the whole I am delighted with the way things are going here. We have a group of students who are very receptive to some of the small changes we have made to improve things further. We have a group of Year 11 students who are already focused on the exams that lay ahead and are working hard to put themselves in the best possible position to reach their potential. Lower down the school we have an increasing number of students taking part in a range of wider curricular opportunities which enhance their daily diet of school life. And we have a fantastic group of staff who continue to give of their very best day in, day out to help our students in whatever ways are required.

As Christmas and the New Year approach it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved, on where we are now and about what the future will bring. My end of year report is a very positive one, we are seeing consistently high standards in all areas of the school and the future looks very bright indeed. I am very optimistic that our partnership with the Uffculme Academy Trust will be formalised in the New Year which will place Axe Valley in a group of schools who will only go from strength to strength.

Enjoy the holiday period and thank you for your ongoing support.