

SEND Interventions during School Closure

This week, Monday's social skills group got off to a good start with social skills drama activity and learning how using different tones of voice can mean a conversation can sound friendly or unfriendly then a short video clip on how to get better at talking. Everyone participated well.

Tuesday with our lovely year 7's we were working from the talk about program looking at emotions. The students watched a short clip of inside out and had to guess the feeling then we had discussion about what we can do if we have the feelings. Rahat was our star of the day giving excellent suggestions for anger the best 2 being to draw the anger on a paper or talk to someone you trust.

All participated actively and sensibly joined in the conversation taking turns and being respectful of each other. We also currently have 4 young people actively accessing our superb counselling on phone sessions. All those receiving are giving positive feedback about the active support that it is.

Some students are also receiving extra mentoring phone or teams support and are all actively using this time productively to help give themselves targets whilst school continues online. Stephen Spielberg said when talking of mentoring, "The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves!"

Wednesday's year 8 well-being session had a lively debate about different qualities and some interesting insights from the way they viewed the world. One student spoke on the one hand about social media giving them a reason to live but on the other hand how if you don't post you go unnoticed but if you do you attract criticism. We discussed leadership and if this is always a good quality looking at the current political decisions here and in America. An interesting mature lesson!

Thursdays year 9's looked at masking feelings and why they may show different feelings that are not real in different situations. One student said going for a run helps them when they are angry as they do not always want to tell their parents in case they get upset. All students participated well.

Thursdays year 8's looked at different learning styles and each student identified how they felt they learn best and we had a discussion about what ideas they got from the learning style video clip. One student said he was very forgetful and felt that writing things down in one place with diagrams could possibly help hi remember.

The week ended on a strong note with 8N watching a clip of Gnomeo and Juliet and comparing to the balcony scene in Romeo and Juliet. They then went on to complete Readingwise and Bedrock activities and all worked hard. Year 9s study support and well-being looked at qualities in people and then detailed discussions re learning styles and how they could make the most of learning online. They also discussed very maturely different strategies that could be suggested to teachers to help them more effectively access learning.