

Comments from the Class reps about HPL

Microsoft Word - Class Reps Agenda – 3rd Feb 2020.docx11.

Thrilled with the talk on HPL. In particular it is exciting to hear about that reflects teachers' attitudes to setting and ability...That children's performance and setting is seen as just "where they are now" and not as any indicator of innate ability ...or predictor of "potential". And for children it sounds like a wonderful tool box of life skills. I do wonder about how we describe "success" though.... as it can suggest a rather binary, competitive end goal... which to my mind is quite anxiety inducing.... rather than a broader definition of simply being able to thrive as adult with the creativity, growth mindset, social skills...problem solving skills etc needed rather than achievement being defined relative to / competitively against peers/colleague.. (a small point...but I feel it is a subtly different message)

And then our reply

At school we never define success as a competition. I completely agree that a successful education is the ability to be able to thrive in the next stage of life (whatever that is). We pride ourselves that we prepare our pupils for their next school; not just academically or on the sporting, art or musical fronts but also with all the mental strategies needed to thrive that, as you have said, include creativity, growth mindset, social skills, problem solving, intellectual curiosity and confidence. Aristotle said, "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." We want to produce children that can think and thrive in any environment. As teachers, one of our biggest joys is to learn that our old Westbournians are happy and thriving at their next school, we know then that we have succeeded.