

WHY TEACH ?

This term has been tough, and probably 'tough' is understatement. We have had to adapt to a completely new way of working: new classroom set ups, the use of PPE, new timetables, new bubbles, coping with full closures, partial closures and setting work remotely... the list goes on.

We have had to carry on as 'normal' when life is not normal and that has been tiring. We have been on our knees. We are used to this term always being tiring; the dark nights set in and it feels like we go to work, go home, sleep and repeat. However, add a national pandemic into the mix and it makes it even more emotionally and physically exhausting. I do not know about you, but I feel like I have been back at year, without a break, not a term! I am done in!

Sometimes I know we all wonder *is it worth it?* Other people see us getting the long holidays and we take the flack for that. They do not see the planning, marking and dedication that goes into the job and the energy it takes to get through it all, not just from 8.45am – 3.30pm but the evenings, weekends and holiday hours we put in.

One thing I do know is that no matter how tired we feel, when we get in front of the pupils and we can see how much of a difference we are making to them it makes it all worthwhile.

It makes me smile when I see the recruitment adverts for teaching – that big question, WHY TEACH? Some of our instant responses may be "DON'T!" I would, however, ask you to reflect and think about it. We come back term after term, year after year. But why? Because we know we can make a difference and all of that tiredness is worth it when you see how you can inspire and how some of pupils rely on us day in day out.

One of my favourite educational quotes is "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." For me, these words are so true.

Inspirational teachers ignite a passion to learn in their pupils; I am evidence of this. For me, it was my PE teacher. She made lessons fun, yet challenging. She pushed us all to achieve and make progress. However, for me it wasn't just that, ultimately, she cared. She was so much more than a teacher; her support, nurturing and encouragement inspired me long after I left school, and the difference she made to my life encouraged me to pursue a career in which I could do the same. I am sure you too can relate, and that you were taught by one teacher that really did make that difference.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding careers. Teachers can have such an impact on a child's life, and to see a child progress and grow is something that brings great happiness to us. Everyday, people that work with children make a difference by inspiring them, building self-esteem, helping them believe in themselves and their ability to learn.

Teaching requires dedication: we work long hours (and sometimes not just in the working week), cope with limited resources and faced with increasing accountability. Yet, we still do it. We still work our socks off to make a difference. So *why* do we do it?

As teachers, we can have the greatest effect on the pupils we teach. For me, that is a fantastic responsibility and a challenge that I will be always willing to accept.

As we approach the much-deserved holiday season, know that every day – no matter how demanding it all becomes – you make a difference.

Charlotte ☺