

TVA NEWS



Drop Down Day #One EDITION- October 2015

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DROP DOWN DAY!

On Tuesday 20th October 2015, the whole school swapped their normal timetable and their normal uniform for our first **"DROP DOWN DAY"**. The theme of this Drop Down day was Democracy, and involved a variety of different activities.

Year 7 competed against each other to design their own countries, year 8 held a mock election, year 9 went to the Galleries of Justice to learn about the Suffragettes and year 10 took on the role of the Government for the day. A group also went to Nottingham Council House for a Democratic Dilemmas session. Experiencing how to set a budget, they finished with a tour of the Council House and got to meet the Lord Mayor.

What is a Drop Down Day?

A Drop Down Day is a day where the whole school follows a different timetable, during these days the students get to learn important subjects that they wouldn't normally cover in the school day. During the year we will have six of these days. The subjects they will focus on are:

- Democracy
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Relationships
- Faith, Morals and Ethics
- Law and Finance
- S.I.D (Safety, Identity, Difference)



On these days we wear different school uniform. Every year group wears a different colour t-shirt. Mr Kelly told us *"I love the t-shirts as they are unique and make the day feel even more different."* Mr Kelly exclaimed *"I am keen for students to have variety in their learning and be taught by teachers that they normally wouldn't work with"*. Mr Hay (Head of Maths) said *"The t-shirts are great and really distinguish what year students are in"*.

Overall the students love the t-shirts and we have had comments about how comfortable they are and the fun range of colours.



The students have been learning about what the government does and how people benefit from their decision and different countries. You would not normally learn these in regular lessons. *"It was strange but exciting to learn these different subjects"* some of the students said. The teachers have incorporated different subjects into their lesson such as art. The Drop Down Day is also a new and exciting experience for teachers as they are not teaching the subject they normally would. Mr Hay stated *"I'm not out of my comfort-zone but I enjoy democracy, but maybe I will be on one of the following Drop Down Days"*.

During break students walked around proudly sporting their t-shirts and smiles with them. One student said to the Roving Reporters *"I really enjoyed the art lesson because we get to learn about different*



cultures and how they draw or paint or even create accessories such as masks and clothes".

After the bell went signalling the end of break, the students once again branched off towards a different set of classrooms many of which students may have never even used before. This means that they will experience something new to help them choose their subjects in year 9, which could influence which job they will choose after their education. One student said *"I can't wait until period 4 because I am going to do engineering with Mr Hallgarth"*.



Year 7 tutor winners - 7L



Year 8, making election boxes for their election later that day

At the end of the day, Mr Hallgarth held an assembly for year 7 as they were doing a competition. Year 8 held an election.

In year 7 they have been creating their own country and laws. In the morning, year 8 designed their own political parties, then in the afternoon they voted and in maths the votes were counted.

Some students were selected to be "Roving reporters." These students spent the day interviewing other students and teachers. They took photos and got to see what everyone in the school was doing. They contributed to this newsletter. They edited and produced it. The Roving Reporters were: Ella, Finley, Shannon, Curtis, Aiden, Curtis and William.

Most students rated this day 8/10 and definitely want to do it again. Gurneet (year 8) says *"the drop down day was great fun and was a new experience"* She rated the day 9 out of 10.

This was a great day overall and everyone can't wait to have the next one. We all want to thank all the staff in particular Miss Vanterpool, Mr Hallgarth, Mrs Havey-Taylor.



Democratic Dilemmas - Nottingham Council House

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