

Compass News

'Geography underpins a lifelong conversation about the earth as the home of humankind.'

Geography Association

We were pleased to host and hear Christine Counsell speak at our Compass Conference the Friday before half term. Christine spent the day with teachers and leaders unpicking how curriculum is both fundamental to schools and fiendishly complex. Her key messages centered around the vital role the curriculum plays in developing knowledge, vocabulary and deep understanding for children.

Christine's key messages were that a curriculum exists to enable all children to enter wider conversations, so that they gain the powers of the powerful. She underlined the importance of both the journey a curriculum takes children on and the role of cognitive psychology to build up schemata through which we attend to and make sense of new material.

The key message was that great curriculums are planned purposefully to allow conceptual structures (such as civilisation) to be developed over time, so that new information from different contexts will become part of a frame of reference and allow children to make better sense of it. We are looking forward to further developing our schools' curriculums and ensuring they are grounded in knowledge, concepts and overarching ideas, as an entitlement for all children.

Christine has amongst other things taught history in state secondary comprehensive schools and for the University of Cambridge. Christine acts as a consultant at national level with both the Department for Education and Ofsted in aspects of history, curriculum and education policy. She has an international reputation lecturing and advising about curriculum development and design. Should you wish to read more of Christine's work Christine blogs at:

<https://thedignityofthethingblog.wordpress.com/>

Compass Events – open to all of our schools

School/Trust event	Date & Time	Event
Willow Dene	Every Wednesday at 10.30 - 11.30	Speakeasy: Coffee morning with the chance to chat to other parents and listen to key speakers on a range of topics
Willow Dene	(Every Friday at 10.15)	EYFS Sharing Time: A chance to celebrate all the achievements in EYFS with family and friends
Wingfield	6 th June	Handwriting (Parent Workshop)
Compass Trust	13 th June	Compass Sports Day
Wingfield	19 th June	Summer Fayre
Wingfield	20 th June	Spelling (Parent Workshop)

Horn Park	29 th June	Summer Fayre
Wingfield	4 th July	Supporting Children with EAL (Parent Workshop)