Lifelong Learning and Continuing Professional Development

At Thomas’s Clapham we are committed to high standards of teaching and learning for all members of our school community – pupils, parents and teachers.

There are a number of parent talks to support children’s education. Every term two of our Subject Leaders present the curriculum and teaching philosophy of their subject to parents so that they can understand what they are learning and why, and even have a go at some of the activities their children enjoy in school. Reception class parents are invited to a talk on reading and phonics and throughout the year a range of professionals are scheduled to present to parents. In the forthcoming year we are looking forward to inviting guests to talk on topics such as online safety, building self-esteem, managing children at home and coping with your adolescent.

Not all talks are about managing being a parent – some are simply for the love of learning, a learning trait we want to instil in our pupils. For example, parents and pupils have had some brilliant opportunities to attend lectures by visiting speakers on WWI.

The professional development of teachers is something that we feel passionately about as we recognise the importance of keeping abreast of new educational initiatives and research. We link this closely to our school development plan so that we are moving towards a shared goal as a school community.

Some of our recent professional development training days have discussed the neuroscience of learning, enterprise education, growth mindset, developing resilience in children and developing a whole-school learner profile. Our speakers have included Will Ryan, David Thomson, Dr Andrew Curran, Dr Nihara Krause and Jackie Mosely.

Not all professional development is by external speakers and we are keen to build professional capacity within the teaching staff. Some of our courses have been developed and led by our teachers providing peer-training.

One of the ways in which we promote professional capacity in our school is through The Thomas’s Leading Practitioner programme. This was designed to support and recognise the many high quality teachers in our schools, who have much to offer in terms of experience and expertise. Currently we have two Lead Practitioners.