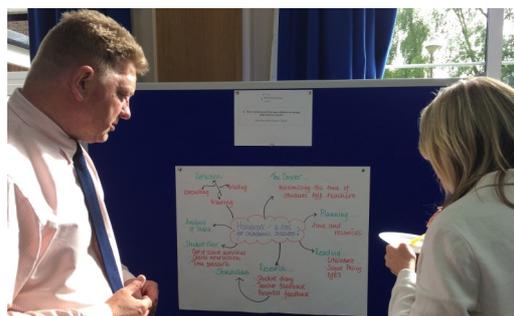




The final network event of the year opened with a garden party in Sir John Lawes' Oasis garden with Sixth formers serving refreshments and providing musical entertainment. Fortunately Assistant Headteacher Ben Garcia who hosted the event had planned kind weather and teachers were able to mingle and reconnect before entering the hall for the welcome and presentation speech. With an audience of about fifty HertsCam members and Sir John Lawes colleagues, Ben invited us to think about the importance of "Learning together": teachers and students learning together as a shared experience. He then passed over to Lyndsay Gillot, Head of Music who showed us what "Learning together" can look like in action by giving a compelling account of her MEd project which subverts the learning process by having students teaching teachers a musical instrument. As Lyndsay said "We didn't know what was going to happen" and part of the joy has been that process of discovery for all involved. Quoting Keats' concept of negative capability, Ben reminded us of the importance of embracing uncertainty.



The poster and networking session enabled people to engage their curiosity for example about how to make homework meaningful, how to engage hard to reach parents and how to develop students' dictionary skills. What was really evident in both the poster and workshop sessions was the thirst for hearing the gritty details of what has worked but also the innovative and imaginative ideas to make that extra difference. For example, Lisa Dillon from Amwell View invited colleagues to help her think through how to develop Teaching Assistants' capacity to support learning and Bethany Fraser, Emily Brown and Jo Mylles from Sir John Lawes shared their Footsteps to the Future project which has had a significant impact on developing the engagement and participation of disadvantaged Year 9 students through a range of strategies such as group mentoring, charity work and fundraising.



Light bulb moments from the network event



Students will enjoy responsibilities if you give them the opportunity.

Boys need love.

Many great ideas from the workshops - some were things I used to do but had forgotten about. Nice to refresh ideas and add to them.

Use strategies from spelling workshop.

Take risks for daily teaching.

Thank you to Ben Garcia for hosting the event and to Jasleen Dhillon, our HertsCam Administrator and Network Co-ordinators Paul Barnett and Emma Anderson for supporting the organisation of the event. We look forward to seeing you at the HertsCam Annual Conference, Barnwell Middle School, Stevenage 24th June.