

THEM AND US: PILOT SCHEME UNDERWAY

There will always be 'Them' and 'Us'. I am in several 'Us' groups myself and so is everybody else. When you are not in my 'Us' group, you are one of 'Them'. Mostly that works reasonably well, but it is far from perfect. Learning how to properly relate, particularly with people not like me, is a vital lesson for young people. Relating with others is part of the bedrock of life. Through various curricular approaches schools teach some of the foundational principles, but a considerable number of school leaders have said to us there is much more to be done.



Pilot Schools – launch autumn term

PiXL members (who have signed up) – launch January 2018

- Over 100 lessons
- 52 assemblies
- 150 case studies

There are far too many incidents to illustrate the breakdown in relationships between 'Them' and 'Us' groups starkly, but our programme is neither intended to deal with extremes nor equipped to do so. However, whenever relationships break down there is sadness, distress, misery, upset, pain, heartache in varying degrees and young people need to be taught what causes it and then both how to avoid it and when necessary, how to deal with it. This seems to us to be every bit as important as GCSE!

The programme is intended to deal with these issues under three key principles:

- Living without harming others
- Doing acts of kindness
- Showing respect for others.

Every student would become aware of these issues which would make a difference locally, both in schools and community. It would lay the foundation for a change in society itself where 'having a mind to be kind' might become the norm. Schools are uniquely placed to reach all of society from the age of five.

The PiXL Them and Us programme is being piloted right now in ten secondary schools using a range of launch materials, differentiated lesson guides and resources to support the introduction of the programme. The opportunity to be part of the programme will be offered during the autumn term for schools planning to introduce the Them and Us programme from January 2018. Training will be offered in regions during the second half of the autumn term for those school leaders leading this project.

In PiXL, we have learned that the development of academic achievement is best led by a Raising Standards Leader, we call this CURRENCY: the development of CHARACTER is usually led by a deputy or assistant headteacher, but we suggest that this issue of CULTURE needs leadership and commitment from the headteacher and the senior leaders together, so important is it.

At times watching the news can be harrowing. We won't change the world nor negate the influence of the extremes, but we can make a huge and significant difference if we have the mind... and from what we hear, we do have the mind!

Getting better GCSEs is a good thing, getting a better world for our young people to grow up in is one giant step more. Can we do it together? I believe we can.

*Sir John,
Founder Director,
PiXL and
Will, PiXL Lead*

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