Lipscomb University Visit to Monifieth High School – Leadership Academy and Pupil workshops

The school has recently been taking part in an exchange with Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. Teachers from the university have come over and have been involved within the school with several year groups, promoting leadership throughout the school.

On Saturday the 16th of March a group of 5th year pupils from Monifieth High School and a group from Grove Academy met at Grove Academy to take part in a Leadership Conference led by two of the visiting teachers from Lipscomb University, Dr. Earl Lavender and Dr. Larry Bridgesmith. The conference was a four and a half hour seminar that taught the pupils the key skills in several different forms of leadership and dealing with and managing conflict within teams, in a network society rather than a hierarchical one. The pupils were involved in activities throughout the afternoon that developed and applied their leadership skills, within the layout of the seminar. The conference was an excellent way of reinforcing the pupil leadership Academy, which has been running this year for sixth year pupils, and introducing the topics to the fifth year pupils, who will soon be taking over these leadership roles within the school. The pupil leadership academy has involved video conferencing with the two professors from Lipscomb University and working to develop leadership within the school, and is hoped to continue this year by building on the Leadership Conference which pupils attended.

While the group from Lipscomb University were here, they also worked hard with second and third year pupils to involve them in the ongoing leadership development within Monifieth High School. For third year pupils this comprised of them watching the Shakespearean play ‘Hamlet’, which they had studied in class. This type of Leadership workshop was new to the programme and was very successful. The second year pupils took part in an Identity Conference, in its third year running in the programme. This allowed the pupils to look at who they were and who they wanted to be, also looking at the cultural divide between America and Scotland.

Overall, the visit from members of Lipscomb University was a great success and benefitted everyone involved.