**Minutes**

**Virtual MSC meeting – Mid Essex**

**Thursday 2nd July 2020**

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Onto the MID Essex students and our second ever virtual MSC meeting! This was a chance for us to connect with children from a range of settings and it was great to hear their views! The meeting started with our introductions and we then started straight away discussing wellbeing and what would help support them and their friends when making the return to school. Ideas included;

* To have the opportunity to talk to someone if they have concerns about the current situation
* To make sure all the children understand the rules because when they don’t it can make others feel anxious
* Easy back into work, not expect children to work at the same speed as before
* More time to be social
* More sport
* For staff to be mindful that thigs are different and this can affect children in many ways and their emotions

Really grown up and constructive feedback from the children in the MID!

Our second agenda point was the key topic for this term Homelessness. This was voted in by children across Essex and I asked what they thought our 315 schools could do to make a difference to this problem. Ideas ranged from taking food collections in school, starting a petition to highlight the problem with district councils, provide more water taps in local areas, have more drop off points for things that could help, get more awareness in schools and look to support better accommodation. These ideas will be taken forward and we will be looking at an action plan ready for the 2020/2021 academic year.

We finished our virtual meeting by talking about our podcast. Our podcast is something we started during lockdown to help connect young people but also continue to educate about our differences. I asked the group what topics they would like us to talk about on the podcast and who they would like to get on the show too. The children said they would like information on leaving school and what that might look like, Paralympians, Chris Packham, Johnny Depp and a local MP. Jonathan, who is one of our ambassador’s, would also like his mum to come on and speak as her work is closely related to one of our key topics. We will be following all these ideas up and some of them are already in the process of happening!

We finished by handing out our ‘Star of the meeting’ and this went to Josh from Baddow Hall who spoke really clearly about a range of topics and we hope he can join us again at a future meeting! We are not setting any follow up points from this meeting for schools as we know they already have enough to think about right now, but we do hope to get our face to face meetings back in the new term, if things are safe to do so. I will also begin working on some of these areas. The next meetings are planned for; **Monday 16th November, 10am – 11:30am – Notley Green Primary (Braintree strand) & Tuesday 17th November – 10am – 11:30am (Chelmsford strand) Venue TBC**