**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Colchester**

**30th January 2020**

**In attendance – 93 children**

St James’s – host

Boxted primary

Lawford

Millfields

Doucecroft

Gosbecks

Colchester district council

ECC well-being team

Brinkley grove

St Thomas Mores

St Johns green

Heathlands

St Georges

ECC SEND team

Dedham

St Michaels

St Joseph’s

Global 4

**Apologies –** Mersea Island, Stanway fiveways, Grow, Dedham, ECC employment team

**Minutes**

So many schools, we didn’t even fit onto page one! It is a credit to all of you with how much we have grown! It looks like we may even have to split Colchester into 2 groups!! Thanks for all showing patience and respect today.

Our fantastic meeting got underway with some feedback and follow-ups from our meeting in October 2019. There was a special mention to St James’s school (our host’s again too!) who raised nearly £400 for the multi-school’s council with a special walk! Thanks, so much for your support. They will receive a special certificate at the next meeting and if you would like to get one for your school too then you can find the follow-ups at the end of these minutes!

Our first question linked to our main topic of the term ‘Global warming and pollution’. The children had a range of ideas that included doing a group litter pick, making sure all schools have recycle bins, schools to look into teamtrees.org, have a poster competition and write persuasive letters to companies telling them to stop polluting. These ideas will be followed up and some could be actioned back in your schools. Following this discussion point we then handed over to Beth from the ECC well-being team who got feedback on young people’s mental health. This feedback will help shape future decisions and work done by a new well-being board at Essex county council. We then stopped for some drinks and biscuits!

After everyone had refreshed, it was time to hear our multi-schools’ song! It got a big thumbs up and we are asking schools to share it and see if they can learn the words. We then passed over to the young people themselves who gave some excellent speeches about why they would make a good head girl or boy. We heard from 4 brilliant girls and 3 fantastic boys. It would have been great if we could have chosen them all but we had to chose just 2 and our new head girl for Colchester will be Jessica from Lawford and our new head boy who will be Adam from Gosbecks! A special mention though to everyone who was part of the speeches – you should all be proud!

I then asked the group to consider the word inclusion. How could schools be more inclusive for all, their ideas ranged from;

* Promoting kindness throughout the school
* Using words and phrases that everyone can understand
* Making sure schools have buddy benches and they are clear to see
* Clubs where people can talk about their feelings
* Making sure all schools have a chill zone
* Share thoughts of kindness and good ideas between schools
* Have clubs that include children from all year groups
* Have kindness books throughout the school

Lots of interesting ideas here that will influence any future work on a good practice seekers programme!

Before finishing we named our star of the meeting for a great first part of the meeting and thinking outside the box, so our star for this meeting was Lucie from St Michaels. We then had time for a picture and another quick talk from Xander who is working with Colchester borough council to look at opening a big, brand new, youth centre! The children completed the questionnaire which will help influence this groups thinking.

Next meeting – **Thursday 23rd June, 10 – 11:30, Gosbecks primary school**

**Follow up points**

* **Could you arrange a presentation in a school linked to yours?**
* **Poster competition – To design a poster all about the multi-school meetings/global warming. To be handed in at the next meeting. Winner to be professionally produced.**
* **Are there any fundraisers you could do for the multi-schools?**
* **Can you share and learn the multi-schools song -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xE7SyzrSU5g**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xE7SyzrSU5g)
* **Entries for the talent show, deadline 6th March**
* **Can you write some letters to local businesses to stop polluting?**