**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Colchester**

**1st October 2019**

**In attendance – 56 children**

Doucecroft – Hosts

Gosbecks primary

TLA

Stanway Fiveways

Lawford

St Michaels

Dedham primary

Hazelmere primary

St John’s green

Jake – Filming

**Apologies –** Ramsey Academy, Broomgrove, Langham, St James’s

**Minutes**

First ever Colchester meeting after splitting from Tendering due to such high numbers and there was a real buzz in the room! We wasted no time at all discussing our first point, what might stop them or their friends playing sport. Feedback included fearing injury, people being disrespectful, bullying, having a disability, fear of losing, gender difference and a lack of confidence. Sport was our first point because it was chosen as our key topic and this information will be passed on to those involved in school sport across Essex to see what improvements can be made.

Along the same path I then asked the group on what types of things they might want to learn about in school around how to keep healthy. There was a range of ideas that included keeping teeth clean, how to have a balanced diet, how food might affect our bodies and minds, how to improve and maintain positive mental health and more opportunities to exercise. We have recently developed good links with the NHS and will look and how this information could inform future education activities in schools.

Before break we had a chance to discuss money! For the sustainability of the council and for us to help develop programmes linked to the children’s ideas we need to look at how we can generate money. Ideas included;

* A sponsored cycle
* Cake/drinks sales
* A sponsored football match
* Selling unwanted items online
* Car boot/garage sales

We are going to look across Essex to see what ideas come up the most and then prioritise these into the multi-schools calendar. We then stopped for a drink and biscuit!

Following the break I gave the group information on progress from the last meeting and planned events coming up and this included;

* Employment – Reach out, speak out programme to be rolled out in January (Year 5 upwards, exclusively for North Essex!).
* YouTube – Channel, ‘The multi-schools council’ can we get people to sign up.
* GPS – Good practice seekers on-going and will visit schools in November
* Mission statement ‘Removing barriers, uniting differences, creating equality’.
* 3 topics for the next 2 year’s – Sport for all, Global warming/pollution, Homelessness
* Gymnastics event 2020 planned for the spring

Carrying on with our theme of ‘Sport for all’ I then asked the group on what sport opportunities do they want to see more of and what would help get them or their friends involved. The children asked for more exercise equipment in schools, more advertising of sports clubs, hearing from more sport stars to get inspired to play sport, more PE lessons, the weekly mile and more opportunities to get involved in sports leadership. We will be linking up with sport groups across Essex to see how many of these ideas can be worked upon and help towards a MENCAP project we are supporting that promotes sport for all.

Our next two points looked at increasing awareness of the multi-schools starting with parents. The children suggested a newsletter for parents, radio messages, inviting parent groups to meetings, using social media and thinking about bigger way’s to advertise (like hiring a plane and a banner!). Some ideas are already being worked on but we will also look to connect with parent groups across Essex. We then thought about ideas to get more schools involved so that we reach our target of having every school in Essex involved by 2024. This prompted ideas such as presentations in schools by other children, schools get rewards for being involved, more evidence on YouTube, schools to design posters and send out to schools and how to make the teachers feel more involved. We will again be working on these ideas seeing what support schools can offer but also Essex county council.

Our star of the meeting was Danielle from Hazelmere school for some brilliant contributions but also for listening to her peers. Her school won extra mental health posters!

Next meeting – **Thursday 30th January, 10 – 11:30, St James’s 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. To be handed in at the next meeting. Winner to be professionally produced.**
* **How can the children who attended the meeting feedback to the rest of the school?**
* **Parent groups – Do you have a parent council? Could they attend the next meeting?**
* **Can you share the YouTube channel in school ‘The multi-schools council’.**
* **Are there any fundraisers you could do from the list?**
* **Can any of the health ideas contribute to your PSHE curriculum.**
* **Head boy/girl nominations. More information to follow.**