**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Brentwood**

**Friday 27th November**

**Virtual meeting**

**In attendance**

Shenfield St Mary’s

Larchwood

St Johns

Wells Park

The Endeavour

ECC SEND team

ECC employment team

**Apologies –** Grove House, West Horndon, St Martins, Brightside

**Minutes**

In one of our newest areas of Essex we were joined by several new faces but also our head boy for this area from Wells Park. Everyone was bang on time, so we got the meeting started straight away and spoke about covid-19. We spoke about what was difficult right now but what maybe was going well. This included thoughts on not being able to visit the community, not being able to use buddy systems in school, no singing, people still not taking global warming seriously, staying in the same classroom and wearing a mask were all difficult things. On the flip side, many of the children said people had better hygiene, they were having more opportunity to get involved in art activities, still going to school was very positive, sport opportunities were good and some children were getting to spend more time with family.

Following this conversation, the group went on to talk about employment and their dream jobs. The Essex employment team led this conversation which resulted in feedback such as working in the police, being a scientist to help battle future infections, a builder, an artist, working with animals and being an author. To back this up they were then asked about their favourite hobbies and things to do which included cooking, using computers, music either playing or singing, going out and about, playing different sports (very popular) spending time with family and doing creative activities. The team will be working with employers in local areas to building connections based on the feedback from young people.

As the group worked so well on the first two ideas, we covered point three before the break. I asked them what the most important issues and topics were right now to young people?

* Climate change still is a big thing
* Poverty
* Brexit
* Family
* Keeping people healthy
* Covid-19
* Transition and change
* Having your own space

The most re-occurring ideas will be added to our vote next term. We then stopped for an extended break as everyone was working at such a great speed!

Next up the Essex SEND team presented about the POET survey. We suffered a few technical difficulties during this discussion, but the group were asked to think about they type of support they currently receive in school to promote their independence in education and outside. Lot’s on our list including teachers help, calm approaches from staff, residential trips, clubs, PSHE lessons, peer to peer support, attending the multi-school meetings and being allowed to solve problems independently. Further support ideas included learning how to start your own business, organising money/budgeting, how to live independently and how to better access the community. The SEND team will be challenging schools on some of these areas moving forward.

Our final discussion point was to speak about our planned awards event to finish the academic year. Ideas are needed to ensure we can decide what we should be giving awards for. A range of ideas included;

* The green award – about looking after the environment
* A trying hard award
* Offering the best sports awards
* Friendly school award
* Awards for meeting some of the MSC aims
* An inclusion award

We will look back across our 8 other meetings and decide on the most popular areas for awards. More information to follow in 2021!

To finish we decided on our star of the meeting and this time it went to Bobby from St Johns school, well done to her for some excellent ideas, especially about the green award! There was also a special mention for Jake who has been a good head boy for us and because he did so well in the meeting I offered him the opportunity to carry this role on into the next academic year – this is something he is going to think about!

Next meeting – Thursday 18th March (Virtual)

**Follow up points**

* **It was a challenge to hear everyone due to it being virtual – please email over any follow up points by December 2020.**
* **How do you share this with the rest of your school – let us know!?**
* **Can you put in place any of the support ideas from the POET discussion?**