**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – MID Secondary**

**Friday 20th November**

**Virtual meeting**

**In attendance**

Columbus College

Beaulieu Park

Essex Employment team

Essex SEND team

**Apologies –** Heybridge PRU, Notley High, Saffron Walden High, Chelmer Valley High

**Minutes**

A few teething problems with technology again but we adapted well. Some schools also failed to get things working but those in attendance were great! I started by asking the group how they felt Covid-19 had been affecting them and their friends but what support may have been useful. Many felt that things were hard because they were unable to see friends, not able to visit jobs, a lack of contact PE and just a general lack of fun. There were positives though such as less distractions in class, the fact schools and colleges were still open, and they felt they had more time in their bubbles to talk. Later on in a later conversation a child said they felt it more schools realise schools were much more than just education which is certainly a positive!

Next we moved on to talking about employment, something young people have said is really important tot them The Essex Employment team asked what dream jobs they and others of similar age. There were so many jobs from, police, working with animals such as vets or dog walkers, journalists, marine biologists, working in a shop, being a teacher, become self-employed or being an influencer. The second question was about what hobbies were most popular and this included gaming, a range of sports, creative arts, writing, dancing, spending time with animals and watching films/tv. The team then spoke about how it’s important young people keep these aspirations and hobbies as they go through school and into adulthood as they can link into future opportunities.

After our break I asked the children to discuss what were the most important issues to them right now. The list ranged from, catching up with education, using technology, animal care and building positive friendships. With a much smaller group it was nice to hear a more positive element to discussions. Following this the SEND team presented about the Essex POET survey and had two key questions about what their school does to support outcomes but also what could be of more support. What already happens is things such as Zoom calls with professionals about future opportunities, respecting the school’s principles and webinars with role models which is something that we know is important to older children. Ideas to improve provision were things such as constantly knowing were you were at with your learning, 1-1 check ins, having your own personalised check list, more support for different learning abilities and maybe creating learning sets. These are idea we will be asking more schools to reflect on.

Our final agenda point was to discuss the proposed school awards event for 2021. We want a range of categories within this event and we had ideas such as persevering, the school that had raised the most money for charity, the best school project idea and the most creative homework. We will release our categories next year. Our star for this meeting was Keira from Beaulieu Park for her comments on what’s important to children right now! Overall, too, Beaulieu were fantastic as they did a lot of work prior to this meeting too which I hope other schools can learn from!

Next meeting – Thursday 11th 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 outcome ideas from the POET discussion?**