

Minutes

Multi-schools meeting - North Secondary

Clacton County High

Thursday 3rd March 2022

In attendance

Clacton County High

The Colne

Doucecroft

Apologies - St Helena

Minutes

An added factor to this meeting was that it fell on world book day meaning there were some fantastic costumes!! A special mention to Doucecroft school for really going all out on this. We got straight into talking about a serious topic though, with ideas on how to prevent racism our first discussion. The group thought we needed to have a better understanding about language that offends, educate both children and parents better (popular), respect movements such as the black lives matter campaign, hear from people with real life experience of racism, assemblies, a specific staff member in school who leads of racism awareness, start a campaign that 'It's not a joke', use posters, make sure schools look into the history of racism and have better way's of reporting racism.

Moving onto our second point, the group spoke about what was helping them and their friends to recover from covid-19 and what more could be done. The group wanted more updates from staff, people to speak to with worries (potentially having children involved in this), encouragement to use lateral flows if unwell, bringing back sports clubs a real positive, information on vaccines, wellbeing hubs, keeping to seating plans in lessons as this helps reduce anxiety about too many changes too quickly and the importance of still recognising the work of the NHS in all of this. Some in-depth thoughts that will form part of our recovery document.

Next up before we stopped for a break we discussed how to support children's speaking and listening skills, again taking into account the impact of covid-19. The group would like to see more communal spaces and indoor safe spaces in schools, more after school clubs that aren't sports focused but encourage socialisation, more opportunities for public speaking, buddy groups, friendship benches not just in primary schools, better zones on playgrounds where children can have more space and the promotion of kindness in secondary schools. The feedback will be added to our speech and language project. We stopped there for a break and some socialisation.

Brilliant to see so many children mixing during the break and that is a real bonus of having the meetings back in person. We used the projector to support our next to agenda items, the first being a discussion about what awards we should be handing out to schools/individuals for 2022. Ideas included;

- Best teacher
- Kindness award
- Communication award
- Diversity award
- Most improved award
- Perseverance award
- Empathy award
- Inclusive school award
- Best fundraising award
- Following school values award
- Helping the community award
- Animal facts award

The most popular ideas across Essex will form our final list!

Finally, the group had a chance to look at our website and suggest improvements. There were plenty of suggestions;

- Information of different SEND
- How to get involved page
- Much more pictures
- A student ideas page
- An achievement/journeys page
- Easier layout to follow
- More visuals
- Down syndrome awareness - links

- Use more green
- More updates on what we are doing
- In the schools involved section include hyperlinks to those schools
- A staff zone where staff contact each other about different projects

Let's for us to consider moving forwards!

We thanked everyone for coming and the brilliant costumes! Star of this meeting was Joshua from Clacton County High for some great ideas throughout, especially about kindness but also the way he interacted with people during the break!

Next meeting - Thursday 30th June, 10:30am - 12pm, Venue TBC, if you would like to host, please let us know ASAP.

Follow up points

- **Can you have a specific staff member in charge of anti-racism ideas?**
- **Can you create a well-being hub to support children who may still feel uncertain about covid-19?**