**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – Brentwood**

**Quilters**

**Friday 18th November 2022**

**In attendance**

Quilters Juniors

Shenfield St Marys

St Thomas

Buttersbury infants

Brightside

ECC Virtual Schools

**Apologies –** St Peters, Wells Park (Attending virtual), West Thorndon (Attending virtual), Larchwood (Attending virtual)

**Minutes**

A really well attended meeting here in Brentwood, with some of the schools choosing to celebrate CIN day with some special costumes! Once we had done our round of introductions, we got straight on to talking about anti-bullying awareness. The group had some really strong suggestions on what we could do such as having anti-bullying ambassadors, asking people how it has affected them, more PowerPoints in schools, making sure people tell adults (popular), lessons in class, make a video, have more open communication in schools, have a safe place in school, have people come into school and talk about it, have a happiness or worry box have assemblies, friendship benches and make sure people understand all the different forms of bullying. Ideas will be taken forward.

Next up was some questions around deaf awareness. We wanted to know what questions do young people want to ask but also how we could raise more awareness:

* What is life like for you?
* What’s it like wearing a hearing aid?
* How do you learn sign language?
* How else do you communicate?
* What helps you to watch TV?
* What do you find difficult?
* Do you get bullied?
* How do teachers teach you?
* We should all be learning sign language
* We should know more about radio mics
* Is it different for you being inside to outside?
* Is it hard to focus?

Out of all the meetings so far this term – the best set of questions! It was also recommended to us that we might want to work with the charity SNAP and we continue to work with the Essex deaf society and our deaf awareness ambassadors. We paused here for a drink and some biscuits!

After our break. unfortunately, the speakers were not loud enough, but Clare Kershaw said a thank-you to our group and commended their report on school attendance which will be coming out to schools very soon. I was also given a fantastic picture from Molly (thank-you!). Next up was a discussion around the cost of living and money. Here is what the children said:

* It is difficult now to buy stuff at home
* We feel scared about bills
* We could bring in snacks for friends who are struggling
* Food banks are important (popular)
* Turn things off more like washing machines
* We won’t be able to do clubs
* We should do more to support the poor
* Parents are worried about tax
* Support for people who may become unhappy
* Have a switch off day in school.

We will be directing adults to these comments.

ECC virtual schools led the next part of the meeting. While they captured their own notes on what supports young people moving on, we also did the same. There were comments such as moving on can be very scary, we should see our classrooms first, we should meet the teacher more and get to know them, there should be buddies or role we can ask for help (popular), we should have more transitions days (popular) and there should be assemblies on what to expect from the change. The Essex virtual schools team will be taking this forward.

We were lucky to be joined by FOUR ambassadors during this meeting. For the last part of the meeting our four superstars led the meeting. Now, in life I say I make at least one mistake everyday and on this occasion I have to be really honest to say I have lost the notes to our final agenda point which was all about what a mascot for the MSC should look like! Nevertheless, we do have some notes we will draw on! We do however remember our star of the meeting who was Amber from Buttersbury Infants for who someone of such a young age was able to explain ideas in a brilliant way, was able to listen and support others and even spoke to me about her own challenges she had overcome! Well done Amber!

Next meeting – **Friday 24th February, 10am – 11:30am, Venue TBC – If you would like to host the next meeting please let us know ASAP!**

**Follow up points**

• Can you/do you include some sign language in your school – tell us about it!

• How do you share these minutes with your school – tell us about it!