**Minutes**

**Multi-schools meeting – North Essex Secondary**

**Doucecroft**

**Friday 11th November 2022**

**In attendance**

Doucecroft

The Colne

Langham Oaks

Essex Virtual Schools

NHS England

**Apologies –** Clacton County High, St Helena (attending virtual)

**Minutes**

Back in the North of Essex we spent some time with our secondary schools to gain their views. The meeting was held at Doucecroft school, recently awarded our school of the year award for 2022 (well done!).

The meeting started with a discussion all on anti-bullying and how we could try and solve the issue. Ideas from the group included:

* An info video
* A leaflet
* More focus on the issue in PSHE lessons
* More advice on how to deal with it
* Stronger consequences
* Training for teachers
* A buddy system of support
* Have a worry button for young people
* Have a support group through the multi-schools council
* Include an anti-bullying club
* Online support
* Have some links on the MSC website

The more we listen to young people the more likely some campaign will be. Ideas from across Essex are being collected.

Next up was our conversation on deaf awareness and what we could do but also any questions the group might have. This resulted in a range of suggestions such as a walk to spread awareness, better fundraising (popular), have lessons to learn sign language (Popular), how does it affect you, what are the challenges, have a sign of the week in each school that could link into a word of the week, make more people deaf aware. All great ideas that will be managed by our deaf awareness ambassadors.

We than paused the meeting as we approached 11am as the school invited us to join their minutes silence in honour of those who we have lost in war in the run up to remembrance Sunday. This was done impeccably by all. After heading back inside we had a short break filled with drinks and biscuits. After our break we went on to focus on the cost-of-living crisis and young people’s views;

* Living prices
* Rent prices are too much
* A lot of pressure on water and electricity bills
* Look at the price of school meals
* The price of food is becoming too much
* It feels like some people are taking advantage of the situation
* What happens if you don’t have any money?
* Shouldn’t wages be going up too?
* Schools could open their own food banks
* Schools could do clothes exchanges
* Making sure we use leftover food better
* What’s going to happen in the future?
* There should be more information to young people about the issue

Some good points made by the group, and we will be asking other professionals to look at these views.

Next up we looked at what support some young people to move on or cope with change at all levels. Ideas included focusing on things that have stayed the same, more support in times of change having people to speak to, having people I can trust, a better introduction, reassurance from staff, change things at a good pace, have a good friend network and make sure schools have a school councillor.

Our final agenda point was the idea of introducing a MSC mascot into society! We gave the group a moment to consider their best ideas and here is what they came up with;

* Involve a jigsaw (popular)
* A lion – it’s strength and courage
* Make sure it gives hugs
* Have a wheelchair involved
* A griffin
* A teacher
* Make sure we use chains – we all link together

Again, some good suggestions which will be join our January voting list as our ambassadors make a final decision. Star of this meeting was Jack from Langham Oaks for the confidence he showed and the ideas he presented throughout.

**Next Meeting –** Tuesday 7th March, 10:30am – 12pm, **Venue TBC – If you would like to host 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!