**Minutes**

**Multi Schools Council Meeting West Essex**

**17th of May 2023**

**In attendance**

Pear Tree Mead

**Apologies**

Moreton primary, St Albans, Hereward, Braeside, Epping forest council, Harlow College

**Minutes**

So unfortunately, it was not a lucky meeting with one school having to pull out due to a flood at their school and then another having their minibus break down! However, the young people at Pear Tree Mead made up for it with their ideas. We started the meeting by sharing the deaf awareness video that was made by our team and sparked some great conversation.

Following this we discussed behaviour in schools which after a slow start really generated some great conversations. There was lots mentioned including having more time out of class when needed, have adult mentors in every school, focus on different year groups like year 2 and year 6 because they have the pressure of exams (and year 11 too was mentioned after!), make sure we aren’t penalised for not coming to school when we really are feeling ill, more support when moving through different key stages, not having friends makes things harder, have a corner or a space to go when feeling stressed, more support around exams, better support with games at break like football as arguments carry on into the class, better systems at break times to help with behaviour, more time for revision, more time to speak with friends, having fidget toys available so people can use them in the right way and more breaks. We will be taking out the key points from across Essex and sharing the information.

Moving on from this we discussed global warming and what more they want to see from adults and communities. The group spoke about having more people in charge of litter picking, calling people out for dropping litter, more done to stop littering by the side of the road, more community groups around this issue, continue to focus on the way we treat animals, more bins on the streets. There were also some local concerns about the way animals are treated which we will raise. We will be sharing the key points with our global warming group.

The final discussion today centred on ideas for future agenda items at these meetings which again sparked lot’s of thoughts:

* SATS/Exams
* School attendance (again)
* ADHD
* Autism
* Anxiety
* Mentors in schools
* Preparing for adulthood
* Schools
* School councils/young leaders in schools
* Homework
* Homelife
* Money and the cost of living
* Food banks

Some great suggestions from everyone involved but our star of this meeting was Ellie, obviously from Pear Tree Mead, for her openness about behaviour in schools. Next academic year we are moving to meetings every half term on the request of our young people and in West Essex the list is broken down below. **If you would like to host any meetings throughout the 2023/2024 academic year, then let us know ASAP:**

**Tuesday 3rd October**

**Monday 4th December**

**Thursday 8th February**

**Wednesday 20th March**

**Tuesday 14th May**

**Friday 5th July**