**North Secondary MSC meeting**

**Date : 4th October 2023**

**Location : Doucecroft**

**Attended: Doucecroft, The Colne, Colchester City Council**

**Apologies: Langham Oaks, Clacton Costal Academy, Clacton County High, St Helena**

**Minutes**

Another MSC meeting and another trip to Doucecroft as they continue to lead the way in hosting & supporting the MSC. As we look to work within more secondaries, we look to increase attendance levels at these meetings. However, those that were in attendance gave some great suggestions. These discussions started with views on transitions through school and into adulthood and ways that might better support them and their friends:

* Have timetables before day one – possibly before the summer.
* Be assigned a buddy or peer when you start secondary school.
* Have more visit days and be able to meet the teachers you will be working with.
* Spend time with current year 7’s before coming into secondary school.
* Where confident allow young people to spend time with different groups.

A lot of the chat did focus on moving into secondary school but also the importance of building resilience in young people too as there will be challenges!

Next, we discussed communication needs and how young people could be better understood. This resulted in a range of ideas being given including:

* Listen more to us – take more time to listen to us.
* Work more with our parents.
* Have a wellbeing hub in your school.
* Worry box.
* Worry buttons.
* Give us more time to talk to you.
* Make sure we have the right person to speak to.

These ideas will link into the balanced system being introduced across Essex. We stopped here for biscuits – and once again it was a lovely spread!

Again, like many of our MSC in person meetings, it was great to see the two groups communicating with each other. Next up we spoke exams! Throughout Essex we will be getting young peoples views on exams, keeping the discussion very open:

* There is too much time spent on pushing revising when our breaks should be about breaks.
* They are not a good idea.
* There is too much pressure put upon us.
* The space we do them in is very important – should be more calming.
* Take the pressure off us – keep us calm.
* Some people do well in them.
* Not make them so difficult.
* They are scary.
* Should we have so many young people in the same hall when we do them?
* We need more breakout spaces in schools to support those who need that space.

You can see it did generate a lot of discussions and we will be bringing together this feedback into an accessible presentation for schools.

And finally, we looked at what we could do in the future to help raise funds and awareness for the Multi-Schools Council work. Ideas ranged from cake sales, a festival, a colour run, a place where schools could sell stuff, a sports tournament and a gaming comp. We would also need to think about how we promote it. Ideas will be taken forward with the feedback we gather from across Essex.

**All that was left was to award our star of this meeting which went to Sienna from the Colne for her ideas on every point and general positive attitude! Also, thanks to our ambassador Chloe for helping lead some of the meeting.**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 5th December, Doucecroft School, 10:30am – 12pm**