

The multi-school's council

Thursday 09th May 2019

NORTH MEETING MINUTES

In attendance

Holland Park

Market Field School

Lawford

St Andrews

Two village

St James's - Host

St Johns Green

Active Essex

Millfields

Dedham primary

St Joseph's

Minutes

A week before the SATS exams, some schools were unable to attend because of this but it was probably a good job because if everyone who wanted to come did we could have had 25 schools which would have been a very long meeting!!! This still meant over 70 children had their chance to share their views and here they are.....

After introductions and an update from the last meeting we got straight on to talking about the 100 day challenge. The multi-schools council is involved in this project in a capacity to improve children's confidence to speak up and speak out as well as looking at what would help their future job opportunities. Ideas included talking more about anxiety and where to find support, learning from older students using a buddy system, more work experience in schools, more opportunities to talk in class, work experience after school clubs and more

lessons linked to life skills. All ideas will be taking forward and discussed as part of the 100 day challenge Colchester sub-team.

In the update I explained how the council would be working at a full time capacity from September and that we were able to offer training on mental health and autism. We asked the group what other training they would like to build people's understanding about our differences and they came up with;

- More video content about our differences
- Diabetes
- Sign language
- Talk more about the **ability** of people with SEND
- Encourage schools to celebrate our differences in assemblies
- Cerebral palsy
- ADHD
- Serious illness and allergies
- Being deaf
- Colour blindness
- Dyslexia
- OCD

Ben from St James's was very passionate about raising more awareness around ADHD and the areas linked to this. We will discuss this at our next Ambassador meeting and prioritise some of these as we won't be able to do them all at once.

Before we stopped for a break I spoke about the 'Good practice seekers' project that we will be starting in September in collaboration with Essex county council and partners. I gave some detail and asked any year 6 or above children who may be interested to come forward and we had 12 who wished to get involved. We need to offer this in our meeting next week too and then more information will follow. It was then time for a break!!

After we re-fuelled with drinks and biscuits, separate from the agenda, I had a surprise for someone in the room! A young lad who attended the meeting has been involved over the last couple of years and has had some brilliant ideas both at meetings and as part of his inclusion team in school - so we made him an Ambassador! Harrison, from Dedham primary, was very surprised and pleased and he will join a fantastic team of young ambassador's!

We then spoke about creating a multi-schools council mission statement. We had so many great ideas which included;

- We are all important because we are different
- Speak out, listen and learn
- Don't let people tell you who to be
- Everyone as one
- Learn to live, live to learn
- Working together to celebrate our differences
- Multi-schools council - It's there for everyone
- Listening, learning and living together
- You help us to help other's

Our ambassadors will decide on one towards the end of the school year. It was then time to vote on our topics for the next 2 years. Each 2 years the MSC chooses 3 key topics to focus on (1 a term over 2 year's) based on what the children have told us in previous meetings. Each child chose their favourite in a secret ballot and the results will be revealed after we have held all our term 2 MSC meetings.

Our final point was to discuss the WALK!! The walk is from the 1st - 5th July and I will be walking to 18 special schools in just 5 days to raise awareness and funding. I asked how we could gain more support and ideas included a blog, a plane with a banner, ask school's to include it in their newsletters, get celebrities involved and ask schools to speak about it in Assembly. We hope schools will get behind us and support us on our mission!

Star of the meeting was Eve from Dedham primary school!

Next meetings (**From September we are splitting into (1) Colchester and (2) Tendering**).

Colchester meeting: Tuesday 1st October - Venue TBC

Tendering meeting: Wednesday 2nd October - Market Field School