**Mid Secondary MSC Meeting**

**Alec Hunter**

**11th December**

**Attendance**

Alec Hunter

**Apologises -** Chelmer Valley, Thriftwood college, Chelmsford College, Great Baddow High

**Minutes**

Unfortunately, due to travel disruption today we only had one school able to attend this meeting but saying that it was still great to connect with the group. Thanks once again for hospitality Alec Hunter. Our first question centred on improving our MSC day idea and here were the suggestions:

* Have a room showing what different sensory needs can feel like
* Make sure the awareness is not too bold
* Have calm activities to make sure it’s inclusive
* Make a collage in each year group to spread messages about differences
* Design posters

It was great to have some secondary views to feed into what we are also hearing from primary young people.

We spent the second part of the meeting focusing on children’s rights. On the first slide the group felt that mainly young people do have the right to **feel safe**. However, all the other rights created different levels of conversation:

**Physical & mental wellbeing –** There is not enough awareness or understanding about young people’s mental health. People still don’t talk about mental health enough.

**Education & training –** Certain abilities can be overlooked, and it becomes about competing against each other for results. There is a lack of work experience which can then have an impact on our CV’s.

**Being included in my community –** People with disabilities often aren’t treated the same. Some interests are viewed as ‘strange’ or ‘weird’ by some so then you don’t get included.

**Take part in activities –** Same as above. If we have a lack of friendships this right can suffer.

**Opportunities –** Too much is decided upon by ‘grades’. We talk about exams too much. Too much pressure on exams. There should be better way’s of grading people. Some people feel held bac because they don’t achieve within certain subjects.

**Support & care –** Mainly yes, however some people don’t have a support network and it’s important to highlight that.

**Information –** Depends on the topic. Certain ‘difficult’ topics young people don’t want to talk about. Having information on displays and posters doesn’t work, it’s better to talk to us.

**My views are taken seriously –** Some adults don’t see the value in what you say. Views can be broken down by others. If we share our views others can make fun of them.

With the last point there were some positive examples of how in Alec Hunter the group has been listened to but this goes wider than that. Feedback across Essex will be going into the SEND strategy. At this point we stopped for biscuits – and there were loads due to it being only one school!

After our break we focused on a key topic which is crime. We asked the group what they think about when it comes to crime and any worries they may have:

* Knife crime
* Kidnap
* Stealing
* Gangs
* Walking home
* Car safety
* **Young people not really knowing the consequences of crime**
* Drugs/Alcohol/Weed
* Vaping

Again, it was good to get the perspectives of secondary aged students.

Finally we focused on these meetings – what should they be called and how could they be improved? Ideas on the name included the meet up or the group! In terms of improvements, they would oike more interactive activities and getting more schools! We then discussed some ideas on how we might format secondary school meetings in the future.

The whole all of Alec Hunter were made stars for this meeting! Before leaving they also mentioned homework as being something they wanted to discuss in the future.

**Next meeting – Friday 14th March, Alec Hunter, 10:30am – 12pm**