



## **MINUTES OF THE FELIXSTOWE YOUTH FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2020**

**Present:** Ava Hoang, Connor London, Ava Watson, Alicia Little and Sally Long (Causton Junior School)  
Christopher Beasley (Chair), Jake Macleod, Lara-may Spratt and Julia Steele (Colneis School)  
Rueben Davis, Lily Wright and Corinne Stockdale (Grange Community Primary)  
Charlie Hogger, Sophie Lucking, Faith Witmore and Kate Bennett (Trimley St Mary School)  
Kiara Baldwin, William Farrow and Megan Burt (Felixstowe Academy)  
PCSO Ben Sagi (Suffolk Police)  
Cllrs Doreen Savage, Seamus Bennett and Sharon Harkin (Felixstowe Town Council)  
Sue Faversham (Felixstowe Town Council).

Observing: Cllr Lisa Gordon, Hadleigh Town Councillor.

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received by Kingsfleet School, Level 2 Youth Project and Jonny Lowdell, Places for People Leisure

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019, previously circulated to all members of the Forum, as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

### **4. CAUSTON JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

Causton School representatives told the Forum that at their school they have had a very positive start to the Spring term. They already had lots to look forward to this term including the continuation of their enrichment activities, a pyjama day on the last day of half term to help raise money for funding improvements to their garden area and the Year six swimming gala which is scheduled to take place next Wednesday at Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

Other events which Causton had already been involved in this half term included the under 9 and under 11s dodgeball tournaments at Inspire in Ipswich. This coming Friday over 50 children from Causton would be attending the book launch at Trimley St Mary Primary School and those who are going, children and staff, are very much looking forward to this event. Next Monday (3<sup>rd</sup> February) one Year 4 class were going to an animation workshop in which they would be learning how to bring their drawings to life using technology. The Year 5 children were now beginning to get excited about their upcoming trip to The Seckford Theatre in Woodbridge; where they going to see The Wizard of Oz.

## **5. COLNEIS JUNIOR SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Colneis School told the Forum that since the last Youth Forum meeting, they had enjoyed all of their Christmas events. This included a range of Christmas concerts and their Christmas Fayre. They raised £670 for charity from all these events.

At the start of term, they had held a School Council meeting to ask the School Council representatives to gather ideas on how the £1000 Youth Forum budget should be spent. The children at their school came up with a number of ideas, including...

- Plant some trees around Felixstowe, to help the environment. This has definitely come out as the most popular idea. Many of the children are aware of the bush fires in Australia and are learning about the impact this will have on the environment; they are keen to do their bit to help the environment.
- Basketball hoops of different sizes in local parks.
- More football goal nets in park areas.
- Children's/Family sports' day.
- Children's/Family art day.
- Beach cleaning day for children/families.
- Outdoor bouncy pillow for bouncing on.
- Lego building area.
- Covered quiet areas in the parks for children.
- More children's books in library.

Colneis School representatives believe that the best use of the money would be to plant some trees as this would be money well spent. Another idea was that each school could have a tree planted with a dated plaque linking it to the Youth Forum.

Representatives from Colneis School told the Forum that the highlight of their learning this term had definitely been in History. They had started their journey of learning about WWII. On Friday 24th January, they dressed up and played the part of an evacuee. They spent the morning experiencing the journey which evacuees faced out of London and, on arrival in the country, they went through a billeting process, where they were chosen by a range of adults who would be looking after them. In the afternoon, they experienced life in a 1939 classroom which included having to deal with dictation, arithmetic and reciting a poem by heart. Their lessons were also interrupted by air-raid sirens, where they had to take shelter under the class desks until the 'all-clear' was sounded. They also learnt about the reasons for WWII starting and had started to understand what happened in the early months of the war. Their next task was to learn about the events in Dunkirk in May 1940 and they would be re-telling the story of 'The Little Ships'.

Representatives from Colneis School told the Forum that they were looking forward to competing against the other Felixstowe primary schools in the swimming gala at the Leisure Centre next week.

## **6. GRANGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Grange Community Primary School told the Forum about their new Headteacher, Mr Abbot. Mr Abbott started at the school the beginning of this term and he was busy getting to know everyone and seemed very nice. He had met with the staff and parents and talked about his values and vision for the school so the school are expecting more changes but hopefully the school will improve as a result. They hoped that Mr Abbott will come along to the Youth Forum in the future to see what goes on.

Grange Primary School representatives told the Forum that although it seemed a long time since Christmas a lot had gone on at Grange School. The school choir had sung at the Academy's Carol Concert at the Ipswich Corn Exchange and also sang for the residents at the local Firs Care Home. The Year 1 and 2 Nativity play called 'Prickly Hay' had been a great success and the children and parents really enjoyed it. The representatives told the Forum that Christmas was a great time to think about others, so they had raised money for the St. Elizabeth Hospice by holding wearing a Woolly Pully and collection on the day they had also had their school Christmas lunch. They also had a visit from the Salvation Army brass band which the whole school had really enjoyed. The school had collected lots of Christmassy food and the Salvation Army distributed it to families in need so they could enjoy their own Christmas dinners.

The Grange School representatives told the Forum that they had a great tradition of Reading Cafés at their school and it was a good way to involve parents in school life. A member of staff or a Governor reads a story to children and their families after school. Then everyone does a craft activity relating to the story or time of year. Of course, refreshments with biscuits always makes the event even more fun! They had held one at Christmas where the book was 'Robin Red Vest' by Jan Fearnly and they also made Christmas decorations. The school children were looking forward to more Reading Cafés this term.

A Planetarium Roadshow visited the school last week. Their Years 5 and 6 learned about different rocks from planets and volcanoes and, with the help of magnets and tins of baked beans, saw how magnetised they were. Then they went inside a mini planetarium and saw the different constellations. They even saw a gigantic meteor hit Russia! It had been magnificent to see all the stars. Everyone was very impressed and learned a lot. Last week the Reception children had great fun celebrating the Chinese New Year by making and wearing a paper dragon, making Chinese lanterns and eating Chinese food.

Grange Primary School representatives told the Forum that they were also looking forward to other events this term, for example, a Year 4 Maths Roadshow, a Year 3 science trip to BT and the swimming gala. All in all, with their new Head Teacher lots of new teaching staff and a more exciting curriculum with things like Forest Schools coming back, life at Grange was looking up!

## **7. TRIMLEY ST MARY SCHOOL ITEMS**

The representatives from Trimley St Mary School told the Youth Forum that they loved books, so this year each of the Key Stage 2 phases has taken a popular book and transformed their corridor and art area into this book. The children in Year 3 and 4 have been transported to Narnia. At the entrance to their corridor you step through the wardrobe to be greeted by Mr Tumnus. The snowy landscape of Narnia continues down the corridor and into the classrooms. To enter the Year 5 and 6 area, you have to pass through Platform 9 and  $\frac{3}{4}$ , to get into Hogwarts. Each locker has been turned into a space for the child's pet owl or mouse. The art area has been transformed into the banquet hall. Each class joined together to help make the fantastic resources.

This term the children in Year 5 and 6 were going to the Space Centre in Leicester to help consolidate their learning about The Solar System. It will be very long way on the bus but they

were very excited about what they will find out and they will tell us more about it at the next meeting.

As part of their forest school time they have planted the new trees from The Woodland Trust. Some have been used to enhance their forest school site, so they can watch them grow over the next few years. The rest have been planted alongside the existing woodland to help make it bigger.

Trimley St Mary representatives told the Forum that they have had their very first Trimley Egg!!!! Their school chickens were enjoying living in the eco-garden and this term they have had their very first egg. The children in Year 6 make sure that at lunchtimes the chickens are cleaned out and given fresh food and water. Stanley and Percival the school guinea pigs are currently in their winter hutch, tucked away from the cold weather, but as soon as the warmer weather come they will be able to go back in the garden.

The representatives told the Forum that their school had lots of trips planned for this term..... Their Early Year classes would be visiting Easton Farm park as part of their topic, Prickly plants and awesome animals. Year 1 will be going to Felixstowe Dock as part of their Foodtastic project and Year 2 will be going to Framlingham Castle as part of their Medieval Mayhem topic. There would also be an author visiting the school called Linda Thompson to work with the children in Key Stage 2. Plus, the school choir were going to The O2 Arena to take part in a special event. At the next Youth Forum meeting they would be able to tell us more about some of these trips next time.

## **8. FELIXSTOWE ACADEMY**

Representatives from Felixstowe Academy told the Forum about the Felixstowe Way programme which is about how we behave and achieve at the Academy. Students can achieve badges in Bronze, Silver and Gold, as well as badges for clubs that are attended regularly. The more clubs you sign up to, the faster you can achieve the badges. The Felixstowe Way creates a really positive environment for all students.

The Academy students then showed some example of the badges to Members. – It was thought this was a very good idea. Members of the Forum asked questions about how the various badges could be achieved.

Felixstowe Academy representatives told the Forum that this term the school was now having a longer lunch time as part of the new school day. This is so it gives more time to eat, socialise and join clubs. Students in Year 7 are allowed out first so they can get food faster and choose where to sit. The whole Academy is on the same lunchtime so students can also make friends with those in other year groups.

They had recently gone on a trip to Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square. This happened to be on the day after the general election, so they found the atmosphere very exciting. They went inside the House of Commons and were able to stand in the benches inside the chamber. Year 7 students had attended the 'Big Experiment' at Norwich Cathedral, which was a great day exploring the science of the Cathedral, looking at construction, arches and light. This was the first time some of the students had been to Norwich Cathedral and they were able to meet the Cathedral Cat, called Budge! Lots of trips were planned throughout the school year so students can experience things they have never experienced before.

The students told the Forum that from this term they now have a careers hub which is a new space where you can find out about careers and future choices. They thought this was really good and can help influence your career decisions. At the hub you can get books about careers and find out all about university.

Some of the students were really enjoying their Drama lessons, as they can do small plays and performances in the drama studio with professional lighting and equipment. This can lead up to big things like being part of the school production.

## **9. FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL**

Felixstowe Town Representatives told the Forum that the Youth Forum had a budget of £1000 and the Forum needed to decide where they would like to spend this money. After discussion it was agreed to spend the £1000 on

- Buying books with an “environmental” theme for Felixstowe Library.
- Having a “Bungee run” at the Carnival which is free for young people to use.
- Providing banners for each School promoting the “do not leave car engines idling” theme.

Distribution of amounts will depend on how much each thing costs – like the banners/bungee run and the rest could then go towards the library books.

Sue Faversham told the Forum about Felixstowe in Flower how all the schools could get involved and that gro-bags and sunflower seeds would be given out to the school toward the end of March. She also mentioned that she along with the Mayor would be visiting Schools to promote the growing of Sunflowers and mentioned the Awards evening and prizes that could be won.

Details of the various activities and events planned for VE weekend celebrations were mentioned and the Schools told they would be invited to attend some of the organised events.

All the Schools were asked to consider submitting an article about what their Schools were doing to the Town Council Magazine as a whole double spread page could be allocated to the Schools.

Cllr Savage asked Members for their views on the snacks at the meeting and whether in the future they would like to have a more healthier option. Members agreed that they would like to continue with crisps and added biscuits to their choices.

The representatives from Felixstowe Town Council thanked everybody for their wonderful reports.

## **10. AOB**

Councillor Lisa Gordon from Halesworth Town Council who had been invited to attend the Forum to observe how the Forum operated was asked if she would like to comment on what she had seen and heard. She explained that all the councillors for Halesworth TC were new members and were interested in involving young people in what was happening in the Town and having seen how the Forum worked, she would report back to her fellow Councillors on her visit. She thanked the Forum for inviting her.

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Youth Forum would be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020** (Chair to be Trimley St Mary School) at **4pm – 5pm at Felixstowe Town Hall**.