



The Council of Portsmouth Students Meeting Minutes Summit Two

Date: Wednesday 5th February 2020

Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: St John's College

Attending Schools:

Portsmouth Grammar School	The Portsmouth Academy
Portsmouth High School	Castle View Academy
Admiral Lord Nelson School	Trafalgar School
Springfield	The Portsmouth College
Mayville	Priory
St. John's College	

Coordinators: Kellie Greenhalgh, Larissa Atkins, Frank Wilson

Visitors: Suzy Horton (Portsmouth City Council)

Apologies: UTC, Miltoncross, Charter Academy, Redwood Park

The meeting opened at 9:30am.

Welcome and Introduction

Kellie opened the CoPS Forum, introducing herself and her colleagues, Larissa and Frank, from Unloc. Kellie explained how the Summit had been planned and organised by the Executive Group and, as such, they would be leading parts of the day.

Icebreaker - Splat

Hannah Lushey of the Executive group then proceeded to lead the icebreaker. The executive group had chosen to play splat as their icebreaker. This was a simple



icebreaker, designed to encourage students to feel comfortable and relaxed, this would enable them to be more forthcoming in the following activities. It is also an activity most of the group are familiar with and enjoy.

Guest Speaker - Suzy Horton

Following the icebreaker we were joined by our guest speaker Suzy Horton. During the executive group meeting Suzy was mentioned by the students as someone they would like to attend the summit and work with them. Suzy is Cabinet member for Education within the City Council, Suzy began her session by talking a little bit about her background and her role. She then went on to share how students may be directly or indirectly affected by decisions the council makes. Some students chose to discuss some of the ways they interact with the council on a daily or regular basis.

Suzy also brought along copies of the notes from the Action Group meetings, she went through some of the key points highlighted by students and indicated that she would be very keen to help support the students with particular points. One of the action groups is looking at climate change and the environment. The council is currently discussing a Climate Change Strategy, the students were given the opportunity to discuss in - small groups - the value of young people's opinions on this strategy.

The students discussed in small groups and then had the opportunity to feedback their ideas to Suzy. Suzy summarised the session by encouraging the students to get involved in the council wherever they can, informing students that they are able to attend meetings, access papers and email councillors with any ideas or suggestions. Listening and engaging with Suzy allows the students to gain a broader knowledge of their community and how they are able to get involved, it also allows them to gain a better understanding of how change occurs in the city, their schools and what effect this can have on them. Finally it encourages and enables them to have their voice heard and demonstrates exactly how they can do this.

Time in Action Groups

After the break students got into their action groups to discuss what they have been working on so far. Our five action groups are:

- Teacher Support and Guidance
- Climate Change
- Mental Health



- Life Skills
- Sexism and Stereotypes

Working in action groups allows students to collaborate with other schools and share best practice and ideas. Students spent time discussing their key ideas for change and how best to move these ideas forward. The executive group decided that time in Action Groups was important for students to discuss the direction they were taking in bringing about the positive improvements they were hoping to make in their schools. Students discussed together ideas they had in making their plans a reality and began setting out which students would be tasked with which tasks to bring their plans into fruition. The students demonstrated good project planning skills, delegation and leadership throughout this process, taking into account their student voice and creating a safe environment for their team members to share too.

Action Group Presentations

Following on from the time working in their groups, all members of the Action Group delivered a presentation to the rest of the group. The aim was for the Action Groups to share what they have decided to work toward for the remainder of the year, this was decided in their previous Action Group Meetings. The Action Group Members outlined what areas they were looking at pursuing, and also other areas they felt they wouldn't be able to pursue, but would be beneficial to, from their point of view, at another point in time. This helped provide clarity to the rest of CoPS, not only regarding what their specific Action Groups were working towards, but also what the other Action Groups in CoPS were aiming to achieve.

The Action Group Members all did really well in speaking in front of the Forum and providing an update for the students. They spoke loudly and clearly and demonstrated brilliant public speaking skills.

Energiser - The Teeth Game

After lunch, two members of the executive group - Josh and Nick - led an energiser activity to refocus and engage the group. The students had been working really hard throughout the day and when putting the agenda together the executive group identified that this would be a good time to bring the group together for a fun game. The students were split into six mixed school groups by Josh and each group was given



a set of categories (things to do on a Saturday, names of fruits, items you might have in a lunch box etc). One by one the students must list or describe something in one of the categories, however they are not allowed to show their teeth or cover their mouth with their hand. The game created a lot of laughter and allowed the students to work and have fun with different students. This type of activity really helps to build relationships between the students, ultimately allowing them to work better together.

Activity: Communication exercise one

Kellie then led a communication exercise whereby students were put into mixed school groups and each group nominated a leader. The leader was given a set of origami instructions, they were told that nobody else in their group was allowed to look at the instructions. They had to lead their group through completing the origami by communication only. The leaders were explicitly told they were not allowed to show the other students the paper nor were they allowed to touch each individual's piece of paper. Students were observed throughout the activity and encouraged when they felt it was difficult.

The aim of the activity was to demonstrate to students that it is common for people to have different ways of communicating the same or similar information. Sometimes instructions can appear clear to some individuals but complicated or unclear to others. The activity demonstrated that sometimes we have to stop and think about the way we are communicating, as what makes sense and seems easy for one person may actually be difficult for another.

Through a time of reflection and feedback with Kellie, the students acknowledged that the activity was frustrating for them, because they couldn't see the instructions and struggled to understand some of the directions given by the leader. The students identified that they often had to ask for clarification or more details. The students realised that different groups also tackled the problem slightly differently. Some groups did each instruction one at a time and waited for everyone to be finished before moving on, some group leaders did it along with the group and demonstrated, others read out the instructions to the individuals as they completed the previous one (meaning members were all at different stages).

Kellie then summarised the activity by highlighting to the students that when they are faced with a problem or issue there are many different ways to tackle it, it is okay to admit that your strategy is not working and to try a different one. However, communication is key and students should



always be aware that people do not always communicate in the same way and that there are many different ways of conveying the same information.

Activity: Communication activity two

Kellie followed this activity with an exercise that had students practice their communication skills under slightly more pressure. Students were asked to pair up with someone who was not from their school or college. Each pair was given two pencils, they were instructed to hold the pencils between their two forefingers and continuously move around the room without letting the pencils drop. Once students had the hang of walking around in this way students were then told that the tallest person in the pair must close their eyes and they must continue walking. This requires the students to continuously talk and communicate with each other, there were many obstacles in the room as well as the risk of dropping the pencils. Students were then told they must create bridges with their arms and move under each other's arms, this meant that students had to communicate with other pairs as well as within their own pair.

After this activity students reflected on whether they felt their communication was better than in the previous task. Most students commented that they felt their communication was better, students gave reasons which indicated they had learned from the previous task to be more clear and to think more about what they were going to say before they said it.

Activity: Kahoot Quiz

During the development of the summit day, the executive group were very keen to include a Kahoot Quiz. A kahoot quiz is an interactive quiz that allows students to compete against each other using a device such as a phone or tablet. The contents of the Kahoot Quiz was provided by the members of CoPS each student sent me one question relating to their action group topic to include in the quiz. The quiz contained a variety of questions from mortgage costs (life skills) to plastic bottle usage (Climate Change). The Kahoot also contained some more informal and fun pop culture questions. The students really enjoyed this activity and all feedback, at the end of the day, that they would definitely like another Kahoot 'recap' next time. The students answered the questions well, demonstrating their learning achieved throughout the day.



Activity - Recap: What did you enjoy?

After the students had the opportunity to ask Kellie any additional questions they had regarding the Forum and the upcoming Action Group Meetings and Summits, the students participated in a final activity, designed for them to reflect on what they had learnt from the day. The students were given post-it notes and were asked to write down one thing they will take away, one thing they enjoyed and one thing they would change.. The students shared some very prominent insights from the day and demonstrated their learning achieved through the different activities they'd participated in.

Students mentioned things in the takeaway such as:

'That I can always speak up'

'Communication is key'

'New friends'

'Everyone can be equal'

Many students noted that they made new friends, learned or improved on a skill and enjoyed the interactive games and activities. Some of the comments for things they would change included having longer breaks, more icebreakers in the beginning or that they would like even more activities. These are all things I will pass on to and discuss with the executive group when we look at the next summit.

Reflection and Evaluation

Students took a few minutes to reflect on the day and all they had learnt and experienced. In doing so, students completed a feedback form which will be collected and analysed to demonstrate the success of the day. All feedback will be taken into consideration when planning the next Summit Day.

The meeting closed at 2:30pm.

Next meeting - Wednesday 29th April 2019, 9:30am - 2:30pm, Portsmouth Grammar School.