

Felixstowe Youth Forum

**Felixstowe Town Hall, Wednesday 10th July 2024 from
4pm-5pm.**

Minutes

1. Introductions:

Grange Community Primary School (Chair)
Colneis Junior School
Trimley St Mary Primary School
SET Felix Primary School
Felixstowe School
The Mayor of Felixstowe Cllr David Rowe
Debbie Frost – Felixstowe Town Council, Deputy Town Clerk
Margaret Morris – Felixstowe Town Councillor
Alan Muchal, Fairtrade
Heather Yallop, Rotary Club
Philip Young, Rotary Club

2. Apologies:

Level 2
Kingsfleet Primary School
Langer Primary Academy
Bernard Price – Felixstowe Town Councillor
Darren Aitchison – Felixstowe Town Councillor
Sue Faversham – Felixstowe Town Council, Civic Events Officer

3. Reports from Schools

Felixstowe School

This half term is always very busy time in any high school. GCSE's, A-Levels and mock exams take place as well as lots of the more fun activities of the school year. Year 10 students interested in careers in engineering travelled to Sizewell B for tours of the site. Whilst they were there, they learnt how Sizewell B makes electricity and all the different job roles and routes students can take including apprenticeships.

Over 70 students have been on Geography trips last week and this week to Walton on the Naze. There has been a trip to Parliament for Year 10 where the

students got to stand in the House of Commons – where the Prime Minister stands just 2 days before the general election.

Our sixth form students had a day out at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich where they got to meet with over 100 universities and apprenticeship opportunities to plan their next step after leaving school.

Our School Garden Project was awarded the first prize of £1500, and we had a visit from Tesco representatives to hand over the cheque. This money will be extremely well used in our School Garden, where students grow a variety of produce as well as a range of plants. We also have a pond which has a real variety of wildlife. Having the school garden is a hugely valuable part of school, with around 100 students accessing gardening club.

We continue to provide a no questions asked free breakfast to all students – thank you to the Community Champion at Morrisons Felixstowe for providing the breakfast supplies.

In June, the whole school changed into Year Group forms – this is an opportunity to make more friends, make form time more relevant to each year group and have the same form tutor for your 7 year journey at Felixstowe School.

We also hold attendance competitions where you can win prizes such as cinema or Amazon vouchers, or vouchers for local places such as the Waffle Shack and the Little Ice Cream Company.

We continue to have a monthly Hot Chocolate Friday – anyone with over 97% attendance is entered into a raffle to have free hot chocolate from the café. These are also given out to students who have shown a positive improvement in their attendance.

Last week was our final Enrichment day of the year. All year groups had a fantastic day with over 30 different activities. The highlight for most was the landing and taking off of the British Army Apache helicopter. Students got to talk to the army soldiers and ask what they did on a day-to-day basis as well as hold grenades, guns and try their very heavy uniform on. We also had over 70 local companies in on the same day for our very successful careers fair.

And finally, Ofsted! After many years of Felixstowe School being deemed as inadequate or requires improvement, we had a full 2 day inspection by Ofsted at the beginning of June. The new grading is that the school is now GOOD in all areas. All students and staff are very proud and cannot wait for all the Year 6 students here and at your primary schools to join us in September.

Aaron spoke about the recent mock elections that took place at the School, each political party had a pupil stand for the election. "Three weeks prior to the election we began. The first step was to choose a party to stand for, of which I got to choose first and I chose Labour. Once I had decided this, I had to pick running mates and I campaigned. This involved picking policies, making posters, and holding a debate, which was televised throughout the school. However, leading up to the day, we had to write and prepare a speech to present to the whole school. Each speech was good in its own way but all that mattered was the win that we had all worked so hard for. In last place was liberal democrat with 79 votes and in 3rd was conservative. It was a dim outlook, however with a narrow margin I pulled through with twelve votes, beating Green with 282 and Labour having 294. "

Colneis Junior School

Flo: We are very sad that this is our last Youth Forum and really appreciate the experience. Its been extremely busy in Year 6 for this term. At the beginning of the term, we completed our SATS. They weren't as scary as we thought; we were very well prepared and the pre-SATs breakfast raised moral and got us ready.

Madeline: A few weeks ago, we went on a school trip to Duxford Air Museum. It was such an amazing day out. I wasn't particularly interested in planes before we visited but it sparked an interest and now I love learning about them. It was really cool going into an Anderson shelter and in the old commercial planes. There were Spitfires actually flying around on the day we went.

Flo: A couple of weeks ago, we held Fairfield and Colneis' Summer Fair at our school. It was such a good afternoon and very well attended. Some children from Year 6 helped with the games' stalls. I helped on the 'bean bag toss' and 'splat a rat'. My highlight of the day was throwing wet sponges at Mr Teare. We are delighted that the fair raised a massive £4600.

Henry: We have also recently had Sports Day at Colneis. We spent the morning taking part in activities and earning points for our houses. In the afternoon, parents were invited to watch races. I took part in 5 races: the egg and spoon, dressing up, three-legged, skipping and running. I won one and came second in one. There was such a great atmosphere all day. It was particularly special for me because, for my last year at Colneis, my house were the overall winners.

Clemmie: After this meeting, we are all off to perform in a music concert at The Salvation Army. The concert is an evening of children playing violins, guitars, singing and dancing. I play the violin and will be performing – I have been going since Year 3 and my grandparents love watching me.

Ava: Last week, we performed our Year 6 pantomime: Aladdin Trouble. We worked hard to get ready for auditions and then learn our lines. It was so much fun learning the songs and dances and setting the scenes. I played the Genie; I absolutely loved my role and really enjoyed making it my own. The production was a huge success and enjoyed by everybody.

Trimley St Mary Primary School

We wanted to thank the Town Council again for the garden vouchers. Trimley school has started to choose plants from a local garden centre to fit with our red, white and blue theme. This links to Olympic learning in Years 3 and 4.

To go with the plant display, our Bramblewood outdoor learning group are making some Olympic rings from willow. The diversity group, which is representatives from every year group who meet each fortnight and consider how to make school activities as inclusive as possible for everyone, have planned the willow designs.

Trimley St Mary School recently re-named classes after trees. Two weeks ago, years 3 and 4 went to the Farm Fair at Suffolk Showground. They were able to take home Maple and Birch trees, the names of two of their classes, and these year groups will vote to decide where the new trees will be planted. They will also be responsible for looking after their trees.

We have had links with Fair Trade for a long time. This year we are linking up with the Sir John Lenon High school to make a video highlighting Fairtrade across Suffolk. Trimley St Mary will be presenting primary-aged children's learning and understanding of Fairtrade. This is something we look at in detail as part of our rainforest learning topic.

As the weather improves, lots more learning is happening outside the classroom. We have had guided reading sessions, angles learning where we drew with chalk and art where we worked on the outdoor benches. We have modelled rotating and orbiting planets and conducted science experiments on reversible and irreversible changes. At the end of last term Year 5 and 6 had easter egg hunts where we worked in our house teams to find all of our coloured eggs.

Fairtrade

At the Last Youth Forum we talked about a fairtrade video project. The video project is to make a video for all Suffolk schools to tell them about Fairtrade. It is

going to be called 'Growing up with Fairtrade'. The finished video will be sent to schools at the end of October.

Last Youth Forum, we talked in our school groups and then told Alan Muchal, our Fairtrade representative, what we would like to see in the video. Our ideas were very useful to the Suffolk Fairtrade Association and we will see some of them in the finished video. We wanted to see young people in the video and hear from them what it is like to grow up in a Fairtrade community. We will do!

Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns has sent all the schools an email about what to film and where to send their video clips. Trimley St Mary School will film a short introduction to the video to explain what Fairtrade is. We will also interview Holly Miles (who we have seen at Youth Forum) about learning about Fairtrade when she went to Colneis school.

Sir John Leman High School is making the film and have started filming. They will film more in September when Patrick Kaberia, a Kenyan Fairtrade farmer, is visiting Suffolk. We can meet Patrick at Felixstowe Library on Saturday 21st September at 10am. There is a special Fairtrade Family Fun Day to greet him.

Please ask your schools about their plans to send in Fairtrade video clips. They need to send them in before the end of Fairtrade fortnight, which is the 9th to 22nd September. Clips need to be really short as the total video is 5 to 10 minutes long.

Grange Primary School

We have had another busy half term here at Grange, but most importantly we are delighted that our SATS are now completed and we are entering the final few days of rehearsals for our leavers assembly show. Teachers and children alike always look forward to watching the dress rehearsal and we are confident that our performance will rival any pantomime! We also enjoyed the year 6 annual trip to Duxford to enhance our history learning which is always a highlight of the year.

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Colchester Castle to enhance their history learning on the Romans. They had great fun exploring the underground crypt which is part of the original Roman temple and is over 2,000 years old! After exploring around the museum they got to dress up as celts and romans as well as build a Celtic roundhouse and Roman villa. The weather was glorious and the children enjoyed a picnic lunch in the temple ruins which housed the original castle moat.

Our school is very much looking forward to celebrating Bastille Day on Friday this year. Every class will be competing to build the best Eiffel Tower. We will also

have an opportunity to taste French food but we hope frogs legs and snails won't be on the menu! Throughout this week we have been enjoying activities based on the Paris Olympics and the Tour De France.

Our Sports Week this year was also based on the Olympic spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship. The theme was on forgotten games of the bygone era. We enjoyed competitive games of kerby, hoopla, hopscotch as well as hide and seek. The challenging weather meant that instead of a sports day for two year groups across the week, the whole school had their sports day on the same day! We were impressed and grateful to all staff, pupils and parents for working together to pull off such a fantastic day!

Each year group have enjoyed their termly visit to the forest over the last few weeks. This time of year is brilliant for bug hunting, bird watching or flower investigating. Year 6 built a zipline under the watchful eye of Paul, an ex-rigger which was fun to build as well as play on after!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Town Council for hosting the Youth Fourm this year and the opportunity to chair today's meeting. We look forward tot taking our knowledge and skills with us through to High School.

4. Youth Speaks' Speeches with guests from the Rotary Club

Colneis presented their Eco Mission with a slide show.

Poem:

The way to save the Earth,
Is to educate its youth,
Help them with stories,
Tell them the truth.

Our Earth is a patient,
Desperately ill,
Once vibrant with life,
Now choked with landfill.

No birds fill the air,
No fish in the seas,
And soon we won't hear,
The buzzing of bees.

But there's a way out of this tunnel,
We can still see a faint light,
If we let children be our warriors,
For this fight.

One day nature will once again thrive,
With help from our children,
Planet Earth,
Shall survive.

Simply picking up litter,
Will save it from the sea,
Which will lead to a better future,
For you and me.

At Colneis Junior School, we are passionate about raising awareness of the severe and critical state of our planet.

'Nature once determined how we survive. Now we determine how nature survives.' This is one of the many quotes from Sir David Attenborough, which gets people thinking about what their role is in this environmental epidemic.

The eco warriors of Colneis aspire to enthuse and motivate every pupil to show love and dedication to nature and wildlife, just like Sir David Attenborough. Through the work of our outdoor learning teacher and eco council, all the children at our school are committed to taking responsibility for the environment, both at our school, in our town and around the world.

As a school, we have pledged to become part of the National Education Nature Park. Although we are at the beginning of this initiative, we have done so much already. On the screen, you can see we have mapped out the different habitats and wildlife on our school site. However, our plans are endless.

This is our vision, written by the children of Colneis:

"We want our school grounds to be a place where nature can thrive and be undisturbed, so that all children can be inspired to care for, and learn more about, nature.

We would like to see a variety of wildlife, alongside children enjoying themselves and to hear natural sounds as well as children's laughter.

In our nature park we will be able to find a quiet space, have fun with our friends, and be curious and explore nature.

We would like to feel calm, relaxed, safe and joyful in our Colneis nature park.”

Did you know that:

England’s primary and secondary schools alone cover an area roughly twice the size of Birmingham, so together we can make a real difference!

We have a 9m long, free-standing wall in our school playground. Over half term, it was rendered ready for one of our new and exciting environmental projects. A talented artist named Simon Loxley is working with our eco warriors to create a mural to raise awareness of the desperate state of our planet. We want people who visit our school to be inspired by the crucial steps of the children of Colneis (the youth of our planet) have taken. Visitors will see our mural and realise that even small people can make a huge impact.

The warriors, and some keen artists at school, worked with Simon to plan what the mural will look like. The main focus will be a painting of the earth – one side will look barren and lifeless; animals will be trapped in plastic, with litter scattered around. On contrast, the other side will represent a better world with luscious greenery and thriving wildlife, which can only be achieved if we act now, not in a year or by 2030; we MUST act NOW! Finally, there will be two plant pots with trellises at either end for plants and flowers to grow up the wall – this is part of the ‘grey to green’ mission.

Today’s children are the future of our world; we are the guardians and custodians of this planet. As the Earth will be passed onto us, and children everywhere, we feel passionate that educating both the young and old is key to achieving a world worth living in.

Yes, I am sure that everybody in this room recycles and does not litter. But, I would like you to ask yourselves this:

Could you do more? Do you pick up other people’s litter? Do you consider walking rather than driving? Do you think about what effect your meat consumption has on the planet?

I could go on.... I don’t want to make anybody feel guilty; I just want to show you how making small changes in your life can benefit the planet, but only if everybody does their bit!

To sum up how we feel, we would like to use the words from the noble Sir David Attenborough:

“How could I look my grandchildren in the eye and say I knew what was happening to the world and did nothing?”

As our presentation draws to a close, we leave you with another quote from the Great Sir David Attenborough:

“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.”

The time for talking about change is over; the time for action is now.

See attached from Trimley St Mary Primary for their Eco Mission.

Heather Yallop and Philip Young from the Rotary Club presented certificates to the children involved.

5. Felixstowe Town Council

The Mayor thanked the children for their attendance throughout the year and wished all the Year 6's the best for moving up to High School. The Mayor was very impressed with the High School's 'Election' and was pleased to hear the results.

The Mayor would be happy to attend any schools, and asked the teachers to contact Sue Faversham if they would like to arrange this. The Mayor could come and talk about his Mayoral Chain, Council or any subjects that are being investigated on the curriculum.

Debbie, the Deputy Town Clerk thanked the children for attending and hoped they were pleased with the chocolate as a treat for the last meeting of the year. All three chocolates were Fair Trade.

6. Date of next meeting

Some dates had been circulated, Felixstowe School asked if the first date could be changed as it clashed with half term. The following dates for meetings next year are planned to be as follows:

13 November, 8 January, 5 March, 7 May and 9 July