



STUDENT VOICE CELEBRATION

#USVCday

Unloc Student Voice Celebration Day

Wednesday 7th July, 09:30 - 15:30

Attending Schools/Colleges/Institutions

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| Admiral Lord Nelson School (4) | Cambridge Regional College (2 - 1 apology) | Castle View Academy (2) |
| Charter Academy (5) | Hills Road Sixth Form (4) | Miltoncross Academy (2) |
| Portsmouth Grammar School (1) | Portsmouth High School (5) | Priory School (6) |
| Sancton Wood (1 - 1 apology) | Springfield School (6) | The Portsmouth Academy (4) |
| Trafalgar School (3) | UTC Portsmouth (0) | Total of 44 students (21 provided feedback) |

Unloc Facilitators

Jessi Wilson, Ben Dowling, Kate Vessey, Larissa Atkins, Stacey Bawden

Guest Speakers

Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cllr Frank Jonas (pre-recorded message)
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Dr Nik Johnson
Director of Unloc, Ben Dowling
Student Voice Experts, David Hart and Derry Hannam
Engagement Lead for Kooth, Karen Dawber

Council Consultations

Cambridge City Council, Steph Burwitz and Caroline Gill
Cambridgeshire County Council, Cllr Bryony Goodliffe
Portsmouth City Council, Tim Raw, Emily Acton and Seron Constance

The celebration day started at 09:30.

After an introduction to the day from Jessi, an ice(berg)breaker was introduced, where using a personalised grid, the students had to roll two die to gain a statement from the grid to answer: some examples include your favourite school subject/lesson; a quirky fact about yourself; your action groups' proudest moment; someone who you look up to; and your favourite Unloc facilitator! In smaller breakout spaces, the students got to know each other through their answers.

With the Portsmouth students in the main Zoom room, and the Cambridgeshire students in a Google Meet room, each group had the 'Mayor's Congratulations' - for Portsmouth, the students were shown a pre-recorded message from the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cllr Frank Jonas, and then discussed things they would do in Portsmouth if they were the Lord Mayor; for Cambridgeshire, the students were joined by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Dr Nik Johnson, and asked him various questions.

Back in the main Zoom room, we had the official Unloc Welcome by Ben Dowling, Director of Unloc, who was asked questions from the students including 'why did you start Unloc?' and 'what do you want to see Unloc do in the future?' - the recording of this is available on the USVC website www.studentvoiceday.co.uk/resources, as well as many other recordings and resources from the day!

Our first workshop of the day, led by Jessi, was 'Dealing with and Managing Change', considering the 'Change Curve' and the 'Seven Stages of Change', as well as discussions about ways to deal and manage with change, including an activity of crossing your arms in a 'different' way and discussing the feeling! Students were fully engaged in this workshop, asking questions about their own circumstances and how to help others. It was great to see everyone trying to cross their arms the 'wrong' way and how they coped with this!

After a 15 minute break, the students returned to the next part of the day - consultations with their Councils, where we were joined by Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council; for more details on what each Council and consultation were focusing on, please go to www.studentvoiceday.co.uk/council-consultations. With the students breaking off into various Google Meets, they engaged with those leading the session, asking questions, responding to those posed to them, and giving their thoughts and feedback on things that are or will affect where they live and go to school!

Once back in the main Zoom room, we were joined by David Hart and Derry Hannam, Student Voice experts who were joining Jessi in an 'In Conversation With...' about the importance of Student Voice, with Jessi posing questions posed by the students - these included 'what made you become part of student voice?', 'why is student voice so important in 2021', and 'do you think there is still a problem of students not being taken seriously because of their age, and is there anything we can do to change it?'; David and Derry shared their thoughts and described their own experiences, with the students enthralled to hear adults 'against' the current school system, including examinations and GCSEs. Please see www.studentvoiceday.co.uk/resources for the full recording of the 30 minute conversation, which was enlightening for all to listen to! The students were so grateful and thankful to David and Derry for their time and sharings.

After a 30 minute break, the students were tasked with the 'energiser' to take an interesting and creative screengrab in smaller breakout groups, before the Action Group presentations took place - a chance for each Action Group from CSF and CoPS to share with the rest of the students all their AG had done over the course of the year, with photos to visually demonstrate whilst verbally reflecting on what the group were most proud of, a challenge they hadn't anticipated, and if they could do it all again, what they would do differently and improve upon; it was brilliant to hear from each Action Group the hard work they had committed to their Student Forum and improving their institution in various topics.

The students were then tasked with another 'energiser' - this time to play 'Gartic Phone' and create a thread using keywords and phrases from the presentations they had just heard: starting with a written element, the next person had to draw it, the next had to describe it, the next to draw that, etc, before the thread would be revealed, sometimes with much hilarity! You can see some examples at www.studentvoiceday.co.uk/resources.

After another 15 minute break, we were joined by Karen Dawber, the Engagement Lead for Kooth, an online mental wellbeing community, who gave us a live tour of the website and answered questions from the students. It was great to see all the features available on the website and seemed that many students would be signing up after the session!

To begin to round up the day, the students went into Breakout spaces for their final Action Group meeting, where they were to discuss 'the future': something they are looking forward to, something they are worried or concerned about that's upcoming, and something

they could do as an Action Group for future students who would be involved in CSF/CoPS from their institution, and how they could best utilise their student voice.

Finally, to summarise the day, Jessi wished all of the students a fond farewell, wishing them love and luck in their future, hoping they could continue with Unloc in whatever capacity, whether that be continuing in the Student Forums, or through the other opportunities Unloc offers.

The students were asked to complete a bespoke feedback form about the day and session; some of the comments included, for 'what part of the day did you enjoy most': *'the engagement between the two forums', 'talking to lots of different people and getting their perspective on the world', 'I enjoyed working with everyone and meeting new people and finding out about everything that is going on', 'the breakout sessions, particularly the icebreaker and the final action group meeting', 'the ice breakers but particularly at the end when schools were put into breakout rooms to go through some questions as it was great talking to everyone and having some very funny conversations', 'the involvement with higher powers such as the City & County Council, as well as the mayor', 'I really enjoyed the diversity of types of activities that were presented and the interesting discussions', and 'hearing different ideas and views from different age groups and backgrounds'*; for 'what knowledge did you gain': *'never underestimate the power of youth and politics', 'inspiration, courage, I think it's opened my eyes to everything that is going on', coping with change, how to stay positive about the future', 'the importance of student voice in schools and in general; the issues trying to be resolved in other schools and how different people go about solving them', 'I have gained knowledge about why it is important to be heard as a student and tools that can be used to help our mental health', and 'insight into others views and what can be done towards student voice'*; and in 'any other comments': *'thank you so much to Jessi and the others for such a fun experience despite it being over zoom!', 'the speakers were really interesting, especially Derry Hannam' and 'thank you for all your support and positivity in helping us change our colleges and also in developing our own schools'*.

The celebration day finished at 15:30.

We also received some great feedback from the 'adults' involved in USVC: Derry Hannam said *'I enjoyed meeting the young people. Hope I didn't upset too many apple carts'* with David Hart commenting *'so much to inspire and to refer to for those wishing to build on their experience of SV/participation'*. Karen Dawber said *'many thanks for the opportunity to be involved and take part - I really enjoyed it and it's*

great to hear that the session was so useful', and Steph Burwitz from Cambridge City Council commented 'it was so nice to have such an engaged group'.

Thank you to everyone for your support with CSF/CoPS and USVC this year - it has been a strange and difficult time for everyone, but it has been incredible to see everyone adapt to this new way of working and learning! It has been a genuine pleasure to work with all the students from the Student Forums this year and make my first year at Unloc absolutely incredible - I am looking forward to continuing to develop the Student Forums, utilising Student Voice and hopefully working in-person next academic year! I hope everyone has a pleasant and restful summer holiday, and I look forward to 'seeing' you again in September 2021!