

Student Eco Committee - Minutes of Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Cyber Centre

Present: Mr B Yule, Eco-Schools Co-ordinator, Middlesbrough Environment City  
Mr J McCallum, Mr J McVeigh, Mr N Cox, Mrs K Campbell, Dr K Wake  
Student Reps – Y7 James Burke, Cary's Labonte Jones, Y10 Philip Sidwell, Y11 Rebecca Jenkins,  
Marc Hamari, Y12 Rudo Chimbghandah, Lee-anne Truong, Sarah Harrison, Sanna Hussain.

Apologies – Y8 James Diedrick, Katie Jeff, Y9 Rebecca Thompson, James Watson,  
James Dickinson, Y10 Ellie Downs, Y12 Lucy Evans, Y13 Emma Jenkins

#### WHAT IS AN ECO SCHOOL?

Mr Cox explained that the Academy are pushing for Green Flag Status with the Eco-Schools organisation (we already hold the Silver Award) and the Academy should look to the 7 key areas to help achieve our aims i.e. litter, transport, waste, energy, water, school grounds, healthy living and eating. As a student led committee, initiatives and suggestions made should be monitored in order to see the impact that changes in behaviour make to life in the Academy.

Mr Yule said a recent, more global, dimension had been added to the key areas already mentioned, namely international fair-trade and carbon foot printing of schools (measuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> / greenhouse gases produced). Mr Yule suggested the Academy to measure its' energy usage, waste paper produced etc to show the info as a set of graphs for visual impact.

#### MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE!

All Year Group Reps were in agreement that some tutorial time should be spent in discussion with their fellow students in order to bring to the next meeting suggestions on how to achieve the committees aims. Mrs Ellington may be able to help with display work, a notice board and suggestion box will be designed by Y7 students, James Burke and Carys Labonte Jones, and designs will be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

#### UP FOR DISCUSSION

Y11 Rebecca Jenkins asked why plastic bottles aren't recycled as there are large quantities used by the Academy students on a daily basis. Mr Yule said Middlesbrough Council do not currently recycle plastic or cardboard, due to the low cost effectiveness of the process. Rebecca asked that as Redcar and Cleveland Council recycle plastic then why can't Middlesbrough? Mr Yule said as he was not a rep. of the council he could not answer that; however, the Council has taken on a new Recycling Officer who may be able to answer the question as to future plans – it maybe that if there is enough demand then the council may look into doing something about it. If the Academy do decide to look into recycling plastic, then there is a N Yorks based company who sell plastic compacting machines, to cut down on the bulk of the waste, (£'s unkown) called Miltek(?).

Y7 James Burke asked about the Academy intention for using solar power. Mr McCallum said solar panels are to be installed, at some cost to the Academy, on the roof of the new building. Wind turbines are also being considered as an additional source of energy.

Y12 expressed concern at the ease at which they were able to increase their printing account balances if their credit had expired! They were not charged (as they were expected to be) and paper which had been printed on and was binned was not being recycled. It was suggested that all students be reminded to use PRINT, Preview, before going ahead with their document and that some printers may be able to print double sided automatically. Y12 to identify any double sided printers in the Academy and promote their effective use.

Mr McCallum also expressed his concern that P-Counter was still not up and running, it is a significant piece of software and as a matter of importance the IT department should be contacted re: its installation, Mrs Campbell to contact IT.

The recycling of toner cartridges should be looked into as an in-house option – Y? to speak with Technology Department .

IT and Helpdesk areas in particular to be prompted and for students and staff to be made aware of the importance of AT LEAST turning off monitors when not in use – Mr McCallum said IT are looking to install software which will turn off all PC's automatically, at 8pm, which again should have an impact on the electricity usage in the Academy.

Rooms being re-furnished should be considered for energy saving lighting/motion detection lighting – Mr McVeigh to look into this option.

Y7 asked whether the cleaning products used in the dining room are eco-friendly and look to consider using Ecover products as an alternative – Mr McCallum to speak with Mrs Jackson.

Y7 also raised the question of fruit smoothies being sold in the dining hall as a healthy option in the drinks machine. Fairtrade smoothies would be a good choice if they can be sourced, Mr McCallum to speak with Mrs Jackson.

Y7 asked if uniforms can be recycled in anyway – Mr Yule said a textile bank could be an option, Mr McVeigh to research this.

In conclusion, Year Reps to undertake the following items also discussed:

Y7 and Dr Wake to discuss possible ECO/Green version of Academy mascot, (still under wraps!)

Y10 Philip Sidwell to produce a Powerpoint presentation for broadcast in the dining room – this will cover ways of energy saving and raising awareness of our need to do this.

Y11 Marc Hamari to devise a broadcast message for TELEMAT – possibly using taking photographs from around the Academy and using images of good/bad practise with regard to sustainability.

Y12 To investigate paper recycling within IT/Helpdesk/high use areas and promote PRINT Preview. To work with Mr Cox on the Phones for You (recycling mobiles) appeal. This usually happens in the New Year, following the “must have a new one for Christmas!” purchases.