

# ECO COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2008

9.45 AM

## BURTON ROOM

**Staff present:** Mrs Campbell, Mr Cox, Miss Houghton, Mr McCallum, Mr McVeigh, Dr Wake, Ms Wood.

### MATTERS ARISING

Mr McCallum chaired the meeting in Jack Ravenscoff's absence. Year 9 had examinations all week so a number of students on the Eco Council were absent from the meeting.

#### 1) **Blue Bags**

The blue bags are disappearing from classrooms especially in the Maths corridor.

Mr McVeigh will investigate their disappearance.

Replacement bags will be issued to all teachers.

#### 2) **Bottle Recycling**

It had been established that there is a need to raise awareness of the bottle bins by designing a poster for the bins which are eye catching and colourful. The students on the Eco Council will judge the competition and entries need to be handed in to Student Services by Friday 8 February.

The Building team have been collecting four to five bins per week of plastic bottles from outside the buildings, seven to eight in the main building and even more bags from the Staff Room.

#### 3) **Fones for Schools/ Recycling mobile phones**

A Power Point presentation on Fones 4 Schools was shown in the Dining Hall at the end of last term and Mr Cox will relaunch the scheme with another Power Point this term with an accompanying E Mail to staff to outline the scheme. Chargers and mobile phones are acceptable for these poorer countries and we benefit from cash and prizes for supplying the phones.

#### **4) ECO Energy**

The Academy has looked at different methods of renewable energy and sustainability features and after the refurbishing of the main building is completed, two 6kw energy wind turbines will be erected on the ground as these will be more visible than on the roof. Application for planning permission has also to be sought.

Photovoltaic cell panels are also going to be situated in the glass corridor to convert into solar energy.

The ECO Council were presented with a small wind turbine and solar powered lights and students are invited to submit suggestions as to where they can be situated.

#### **5) Ofsted Inspection**

The Ofsted inspectors had commented regarding the excellent input of students running the school and the effectiveness of the students on the ECO Council. The Academy had a top grade report and the students were thanked by Mr McCallum.

#### **6) Fair Trade**

Brian Yule from Middlesbrough Environmental council attended the meeting to inform the ECO Council of the function of the Fair Trade Company and its policies.

He would like to recruit students to go into primary schools to promote the chocolate game which is promoted and organised by Christian Aid.

The purpose of the game is to demonstrate trade rules across the world; to explain the disadvantages of the growers and to understand the profits and tariffs associated with the whole business.

Volunteers from Year 7, 8 and 10 are needed to go into their old primary schools to play the chocolate game with the younger pupils.

It was decided that in early February the ECO council students could be trained in the last period and the enrichment period before they go into the primary schools.

#### **7) ECO garden**

Mrs Campbell updated us on the garden's activities and the new initiatives such as propagating and growing seeds in the classrooms.

There was also the prospect of growing and selling our own produce in Middlesbrough town square.

Mrs Campbell invited new ideas, fresh ideas and suggestions for the group which could be brought to the next meeting.

#### **8) Web site**

There was a discussion to consider making the ECO council web page larger and more prominent. Mr McCallum suggested that the website could be an attachment onto the existing Macmillan web site and could contain electronic graphs and as much information as the council wanted to submit.

#### **9) Paper/ clothes recycling**

The Academy uses sustainably farmed paper and the company that supplies the Academy runs workshops to show the process of recycled paper. There are links on the website to the company provider.

A request was made to bring in old clothes that can be sold to a company who recycles them.

The clothes that are placed in the Academy Lost Property could also be collected by the same company.

#### **10) Green Flag Status Schools**

Dr Wake gave a presentation on the award winning ECO council Ringwood School.

We are as ecologically sound as the school represented but we must let our students know of our activities on the website and tell staff and students of our own activities on the ECO council.

#### **11) ECO code**

It is hoped that there will be in the future an ECO code in each classroom but this has yet to be decided.

The next dates of the ECO meeting are:

Thursday 20 March 2008

Thursday 8 May 2008

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

Christine Wood  
Secretary to the ECO council

