Eco Meeting Minutes 11/9/19

Staff present: KID, CTN, SDS, SES, JES, BJN.

Pupils present: Many!

1. Are we trying to run before we can walk?

Lots of great ideas given last year but we possibly just started to become a little bit “scattergun” in all of the excitement! Decided that our main foci for this year are recycling and reduction of plastics in the school. Once these are established then we can look into other areas.

1. Book covering – a success!

Message sent out on parent mail prior to summer holidays to try to prevent the buying of plastic covering and emails sent to staff at the end of last year and the beginning of this year to remind them of the new policy. So far it appears to have been a success with pupils even reminding a teacher who forgot!

1. Changes in the canteen for this year – a summary SES

* All of the pre packaged items on sale in the canteen (e.g. sandwiches, pasta pots etc) are now Vegware (<https://www.vegware.com/>)
* Meat Free day will be once every 3 weeks starting from Eco Day.
* The Radnor Fizz bottles are no longer sold in the canteen as it was found that these were the main contributor to the school’s plastic bottle waste.
* Scholars does not have any bottled water sold over the counter (only the cans), currently bottles are available from the vending machines but SES is looking into whether these can be replaced by cans.
* SES is currently in discussions to get a water fountain installed in Scholars to further encourage bottle refilling rather than purchase.
* Next job is to look at separate bins in the dining hall.
* Ideas for the future invited.

1. Results of recycling survey – Nia

* Nia presented the results of the survey conducted before the summer holiday. Survey was very well answered with 62 responses. Seven rooms are without recycling bins and a further eleven rooms would like replacement bins. These will be purchased when we have the funds available.
* Some confusion from staff about what could be put into the bins with a large number believing that they were only for paper and cardboard. Others identified food containers, plastic bottles, cans etc. Several staff believed that the blue paper towels were recyclable.
* Agreed that for now we will ask for only empty plastic bottles, paper and cardboard to be placed in the bins to avoid contamination. Cans can be recycled in Scholars. Pen recycling pots have worked well in Biology. Now looking to have more sites around the school. (KID to liaise with LVN)
* Note in staff briefing to make staff aware of all the above (KID)
* Tutors to be asked to remind pupils about recycling bins.

1. Water bottles – where are we?

See above for information on new water fountain in scholars. We would still like to look into further water fountains around the school but funds will need to be raised (and need to be mindful of maintenance costs). Need to assess whether we can use a tap system rather than an actual water fountain as seen on several attraction sites (e.g. Bristol zoo)

Assemblies and messages in briefing to promote the refilling of own water bottles at appropriate times.

1. KS3 meeting – day?

Bumped to next meeting due to time. JES has offered to help with this.

1. Eco Day 1/10/19 – Where are we and what needs to be done?

* To take place on 1/10/19
* Rhys to book assemblies for every year group for the week before to inform pupils.
* SDS has looked into bands to sell. 2 designs proposed (1 recycled plastic bottles and bamboo bead, 1 fabric with bamboo bead), cost per unit slightly different. KID to find out how much money is in the Eco account. CTN said that school council funds could potentially be used to help with initial outlay. SDS to finalise and order ASAP due to time needed for processing before Eco day.

Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday 18th September start of KS4 lunchtime in E2D. Bring your lunch (and of course a refillable water bottle!)

Meeting focus – Eco day 1/10/19