

## **Eco Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 25th November, 4 - 5 pm**

**R103**

### **Attendees:**

Elise Cox (Student, Project Officer)

Angel Dunlop (Student, Committee Secretary) - taking minutes

Niall English (Student, Project Officer)

Vlad Basiuk (Student, Treasurer)

Jon McLeod (Staff / Eco Schools Coordinator)

### **Apologies:**

Laura Bentley (Staff)

Amanda Crumblehulme (Assistant Principal)

Kurtis Kirby (Student, Chair)

Alexis Thompson (Student, Communications Officer)

Danny Topping (Staff)

### **1) Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Nothing raised.

### **2) Environmental Review**

There are still a few questions from the review left to complete or that need checking. **Action:** Jon will put these into a list and ask committee members to put their name against ones that they are happy to follow up and get the answer.

### **3) Decision on Eco Schools Topics for 2024/25 Action Plan**

The Committee unanimously agreed to have these as the 3 key topic areas to focus on in the 2024 - 25 Eco Schools Action Plan:

- Marine
- Biodiversity
- Healthy living

The Energy topic was considered as it was on the longlist but it was decided that it would be harder to involve students in that one in a meaningful way this year.

The Committee started to consider the questions below:

- What do we want to do with these topics?
- What possible actions can we take?
- What impact will this have?

Ideally we are after actions which are high impact but don't require a huge amount of work ('Easy Wins') but we may also want to look at high impact / high effort actions as longer-term projects, especially if their impact is potentially very high.

Some ideas so far:

#### **Marine:**

- Beach cleans (possibly with local schools as part of the Fylde Coast Eco Schools network)
- Art element e.g. using plastic waste to create an artwork related to marine protection

- Collaboration with Fylde Against Sewage on their campaign
- Awareness raising across the college about the importance of the marine environment
- Work with Ocean Generation, Marine Conservation Society, Wildlife Trust etc
- Work on reducing the sale / use of single-use plastics which pose a particular threat to the oceans and to human health (microplastics)
- Fundraising for marine conservation charities

### **Biodiversity**

- Treeplanting (already underway)
- Nestboxes (ongoing)
- Bat boxes
- Hedgehog release scheme (with suitable shelter)
- Surveys
- Further wildflower growing
- Interpretation signs in wildlife areas - species to see etc
- Fundraising for wildlife protection

### **Healthy Living**

- Access to natural environment for health and wellbeing, including perhaps opening up the pond area
- Healthy food promotion, continuing work with the catering company on plant-based options

### **Next steps / actions:**

Jon will share Google Doc for each topic and ask Committee members to give their further ideas in addition to the ones already discussed.

In our next meeting we will split into groups to select key actions to form a project for each of the 3 topics.

#### **4) Cut your Carbon**

This campaign continues to have a good level of response (399 actions logged to date).

The Committee discussed prize ideas for the 'winning' PM cohort. It was agreed that this should again be eco-friendly sweets and perhaps also a packet of seeds to plant in the Spring.

We also agreed that we would acknowledge individual students / staff who have logged carbon-cutting actions with a nicely worded email and possibly a short video message from the Committee.

#### **5) Treasurer's Update**

Vlad, our Treasurer, updated the group about a project taking place in BTEC Business. Vlad's group is doing a 10 mile sponsored walk on 2nd December for the event organisation module of their course. The funds to go to the Streetlife charity and some will go to the Eco Committee / Eco Action for eco improvements in college.

Vlad will find out more from his teachers about the possible split in the funding and will keep us updated about the money raised.

#### **6) Discussion of roles / recruitment**

The new roles and responsibilities for the committee members were discussed with brief outlines given for each role. These roles will develop as the year progresses e.g. the Project Officers will take the lead on specific projects.

It was agreed that it would be good to have a Student Deputy Chair as well as a Chair.

Recruitment of new members was also discussed. Student members were asked to encourage friends/classmates to join. There will also be a recruitment drive at the start of next term.

### **7) Date of the next meeting**

Monday 16th December, 4 - 5 pm, Committee Room.

The key business will be working on the Action Plan.

 Eco Schools Committee Meeting Dates 2024-25