



Eco Council Minutes for Friday 15th December 23

Attendees: Mrs Deasy, Mr Augustyn, Maddie (6), Olivia R (3), Lonnie (5), Aiyla (4), Harry (2), Hugo (3), Grace (R), Chloe (1)

Absences: Patrick C (2)

Minutes:

Mrs Deasy began the meeting by welcoming David Augustyn, a past pupil at St.James' who is currently taking a gap year prior to commencing university to study Sustainability. David will be joining us to help with our work to improve our school's eco objectives.

David was introduced to all members of the council.

Mrs Deasy went on to explain the purpose of the 'council' and that we will be working through a number of objectives to improve how we reduce/reuse and recycle at St James' whilst hopefully gaining recognition from a list of organisations who can help to support our school.

Mrs Deasy went on to encourage all attendees to make suggestions on where they would like to see improvements made:-

- Chetty and Maddie suggested that we reduce the size of test papers from A4 to A5 to halve the amount of paper required
- David explained that at secondary school, they had to draw a line down the centre of their maths books to encourage a good use of paper and neatness
- Aiyla suggested a white board day when work would not be recorded on paper but on a white board – photographs could be taken to include in books later
- Both Chetty and Aiyla said that the heating seemed to be turned up too high. Mrs Deasy said that she would speak with Mrs

Weeks to ensure that the thermostats in the new radiators were working correctly.

- Maddie suggested that we turned off lights when leaving classrooms. Mrs Deasy mentioned that she was aware that some classes had motion sensors that shut off lights but would check that all classes have them
- Chloe and Grace suggested that 'save water/turn of taps' notices could be put up in the toilets. Chetty mentioned that the water fountain sometimes 'sticks' and can be left running. Mrs Deasy will raise this with Mrs Weeks/Mr Jawad
- Harry asked if we could have more green plants in classrooms to help improve the air and the general environment. Mrs Deasy will raise this as a possibility with Mrs Weeks
- Hugo asked if we could have a 'green roof'. Mrs Deasy said that although not possible on the school building, it was something that could be considered for the new bug hotel to be installed in the pond area
- Olivia R asked about a display area for the Eco Council. Mrs Deasy brought her attention to the board close to the dinner hatch and agreed that it needed to be improved
- Harry asked if we could have a compost bin in the Year 1 playground for fruit peelings. Mrs Deasy explained that only certain 'fruits' could be composted to avoid rodent issues however; a bucket could be brought to the playground for bananas and apples/pears
- We discussed the possibility of using pencil rather than pen and ink cartridge recycling. Mrs Deasy will look into this
- Mrs Deasy mentioned that she had seen a stapler that does not need staples – she will source and encourage the school to pursue if it proves suitable for purpose
- The children asked for a waste paper bin for each class – Mrs Deasy to pursue and to ensure that it is recycled correctly by caretaker/cleaning staff
- Aiyla asked if each year group could carry out a litter pick in PW possibly as part of their FS class. Mrs Deasy will discuss with Mrs Weeks
- Aiyla asked if a litter picker could be sent home weekly like Prayer Bear so that children can litter pick over the weekend and record findings in a book. Mrs Deasy to discuss with staff

Mrs Deasy concluded the meeting with thanks to both the children and David for their invaluable input. She will work through the 'matters arising' from the minutes and meet with the children and David in January.

Mrs Deasy went on to speak with Mrs Wilson who asked that the children lead an assembly on the matters discussed, to encourage all to participate