

CASE STUDY

WHAT DECISIONS WOULD YOU MAKE AS A LEADER IN THE WORLD?

Learners had carried out in-depth studies of the local area for their 'cynefin' project. They had noticed some parts of the locality that could be improved and wanted to look at what they could do themselves.

Learners enjoyed constructing greater understanding of the terms 'sustainability' and 'sustainable development'. Most had a good grasp of the terms and could use them correctly when speaking.

They found the number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a little daunting at first, but the sorting activity helped them to start to make sense of their far-reaching nature.

We invited people in to be interviewed by learners, a local councillor, someone from a 'green' group working on cleaning up a local river and an outreach manager from a large local industry making silicon products. Each visitor was asked to give a brief introduction stating what their role was and how it linked with sustainability. The learners drafted some really interesting questions that they put to those in the 'hot seats', including ones focused on the particular areas of economy, society and the environment. Many also had useful follow-up questions.



Outdoors, in the local area, there were many issues spotted relating to sustainability, including plastic litter, overflowing bins, many cars on the roads, waste land, pollution in a local river, etc.

Learners were very engaged with the idea of a campaign to improve their local area. Some joined the local 'green' group and helped to clear the local river with their parents, others looked at the

sites and sizes of litter bins and contacted the local council with their ideas, some started a campaign for others to use more public transport whilst another group looked at improving recycling and reusing waste. They produced a display for the hall so others in the school could see their campaigns.



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Looking at the SDGs from a global perspective showed learners how better to take different perspectives. This chimed with the work we had done on cynefin and learners were keen to start a partnership with another school, which we managed to do with a school in Africa. This partnership is still ongoing after the learners have moved on to their new school.