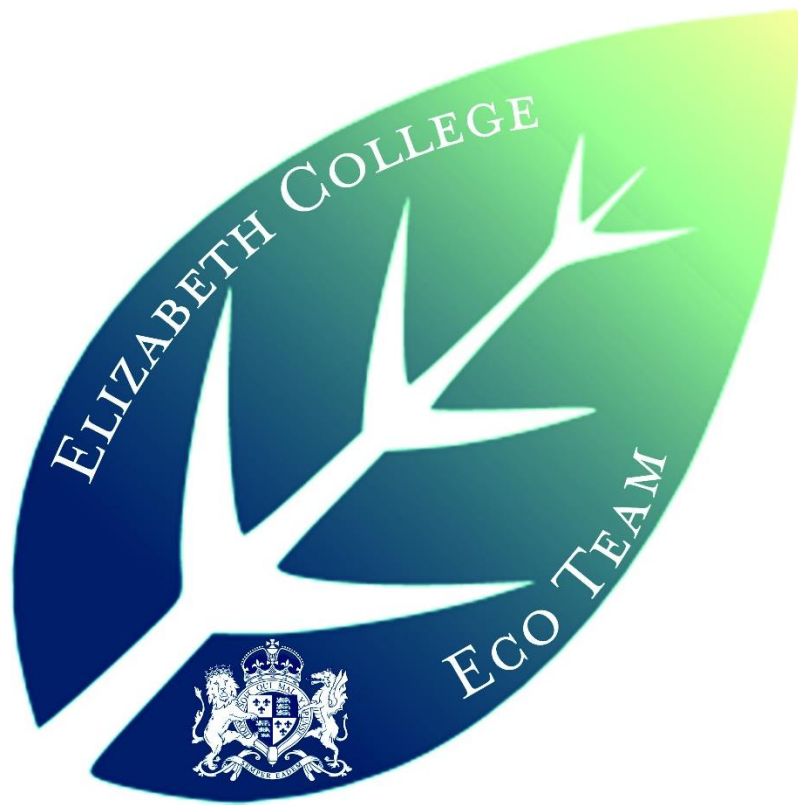


ELIZABETH COLLEGE



Ecological Achievements



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Independent
Schools



Ecological Achievements of Elizabeth College

Report by Sharka Lee
Eco Team Lead

Introduction and Successes in Everyday Practice

I am very excited about the number of transformations at Elizabeth College since I founded the staff Eco Team in January 2018.

To name just a few highlights – we have eliminated Styrofoam and many single-use plastics in the Refectory, we have even been able to feed around six hundred people during the Sports day without single use plastics. All our waste is now being recycled; we have included eco topics in every subject of the curriculum. We have a new A-level course in Geography dedicated to Sustainability, the Friday afternoon activity (Eco Warriors), an Ecological component of the Elizabeth Award, and a vibrant and engaged Students' Eco Team that was formed in September 2019.

Most of all, I am pleased with the change in the thinking and attitude of people, which is reflected in many areas of our school life. I would like to thank you for all your effort and offer an overview of what has been going on.

This document aims to provide you with a record of the achievements of the Eco Team at Elizabeth College and outlines the successes we have achieved in the following areas:

- Around the College campus
- Subjects by alphabetical order
- Projects completed by the Estates and Maintenance Team
- Positive Changes in the Refectory
- Links with the Community

There are only two things remaining on my wish list which will enable us to take this to the next level - having an Eco Policy and Eco fund. I would be very grateful for any help in this matter.

Eco Team Members

Sharka Lee, Rachel Seymour, Gill Dallin, Brian Aplin, Rick Le Sauvage, Michelle Schofield, Peter Graysmith, Lee Garland, Jo Byrne.

Eco Team Supporters

Too many to name here, please see the information below.

Eco News Around College

Eco Warriors



Friday afternoon activity was devoted to climate change and environmental issues. The students added another Pollinator Patch, learnt about the Asian Hornet from our guest speaker, learnt to pack an emergency bag, and created eco posters for the Food for Thought gallery.

Below are their finishing touches on bugs and bee hotels (Thanks to Swoffers, La Societe and Bruno from our Maintenance Team for their help).

Students efforts count towards newly established Eco Strand of Elizabethan Award.



Next year, we are planning to offer a new alternative Friday activity to Year 10 students as several students have already expressed their interest in learning about sustainable living and making changes in our society.

Sports Day

What a great success story when **600 people** were fed and watered **without single use plastics** on this day. There were re-fillable water stations, cordial, bio-degradable cutlery, and crockery all day long! It was a fantastic atmosphere thanks to all staff involved in the organisation.

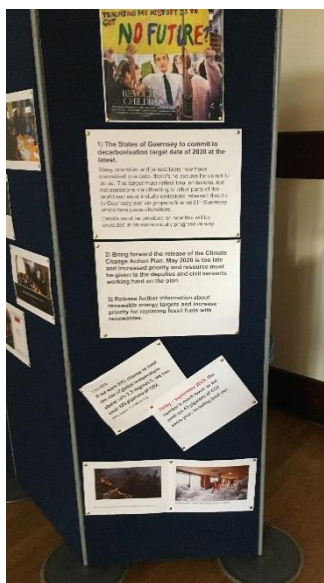
Bring Your Own Water Bottle



More than 60 million plastic bottles end up in a landfill or incinerator around the world every year. Not on our watch though. As we discontinued the sale of bottled water at Elizabeth College, the students and staff are used to bringing in their own water bottles. The tutor group that brought their water bottles without exception in a Surprise Spot Check were rewarded with a delicious home-made cake.

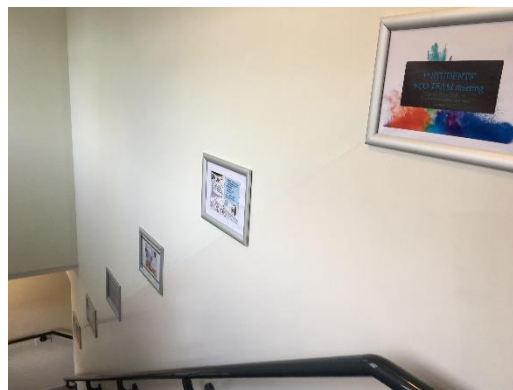
Eco Noticeboards

We currently have three permanent display areas on the campus solely dedicated to ecological issues. Two in the main hall and one on the Refectory stairs.



The noticeboards are used to inform everyone about the whole school eco targets. They raise awareness of the current situation regarding environment within our community e.g. the Petition to the local politicians, eco marches and election issues.

'Food for Thought Gallery'



A series of frames have been installed on the Refectory staircase, where students queue and therefore have time to check out the latest eco news and tips for sustainable living. We are trying to provoke people to think and take positive action. The posters get updated on a regular basis. Various students contributed with their messages. To mention just a few: Jacob Brady, Young Enterprise Group, tutees, and Eco Warriors members.

Surveys

Numerous Surveys have been conducted by the Eco Team members to inform the future decision making, regarding for example:

- Bottled water usage
- Waste bin content
- Printing of paper (in co-operation with our IT Team)

Staff Inset

An inset presentation about the role of a teacher during the ongoing Climate Emergency was presented by Sharka Lee. As a result, we now have more environmental issues implemented in the curriculum in a structured way, which you can read more about in the subject areas covered in this document.

Assemblies

Eco Assemblies for KS3 and KS4 students about use of plastics were conducted by our Science teachers, Gill Dallin and Rachel Seymour.

Institute of Directors Conference

Two Elizabeth College Year 12 students from the Eco Team, attended the Institute of Directors Conference to hear more about their chosen topic 'The Business of Climate Change' on the 3rd October 2019.

Library



Our librarian and longstanding eco advocate, Kate Garnett, is always coming up with ideas for more sustainable living. From re-using scrap paper for note taking, newspaper from the staff room and library for Art lessons, to her latest tip to replace glue sticks, which she is keen to trial in the library.

Staff room

Reusable cups are being used at water coolers near our staff room rather than single use plastic cups. New recycling bins have been provided in each staff kitchen on the school campus.

Secret Santa and Project Sparkle



Our very own Christmas Fairies (better known in their D and T teaching roles, Michelle Schofield and Jacqui Pendleton) have encouraged participants of the staff Secret Santa and Project Sparkle to avoid “one - minute wonder presents” which usually end up in a landfill. To do this, participants indicated their preferences for a present via a wish list. They were even asked to wrap the presents in sustainable packaging!

Modelling Good Practice

Dr Trevor Addenbrooke from our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has encouraged staff to do less printing and photocopying; staple-less stapling etc. and has explained to students why we are doing it. It has become a common place occurrence in my classes, where students are encouraged to use a scrap paper for note taking or doodling, I justify it by explaining that:

“The fact that we have resources, does not mean we should waste them.”

Charterhouse Climate Conference

Several of our Year 11 and 12 students, with the help from some teachers, used the great opportunity to take part in the online Charterhouse Climate Conference this week (15th to 19th June 2020). Topics focused around global warming and various ways of sustainable living, which will undoubtedly add to our knowledge of paths to a safer future and enrich our students GCSE and A-level projects.

Meetings

Our Principal, Jenny Palmer, confirmed that the Senior Leadership Team is no longer automatically printing the agenda and papers for their meetings to save paper. This principle is adhered to for most meetings throughout the school.

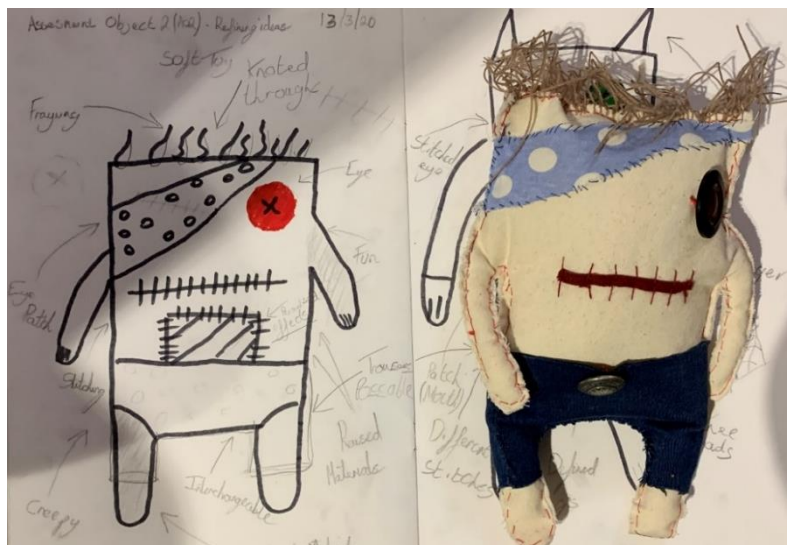
Eco March



Some of our students and staff participated in the students' march to highlight climate emergency. Many more students wished they joined that day, as the atmosphere of the hundreds of students passing our school gate was electrifying.

Eco News by Subject

Art



A Year 8 Art student's toy project sewn from reused materials.

The Art department tries to re-use various materials where possible – the above example of a toy is from our lock- down project. We also used old cardboard boxes for I and D week sculptures, and we have ordered Eco sketchbooks. Some of us no longer offer students single - use plastic biro pens in lessons. These small changes in attitude add up to a big difference over the years.



We have also incorporated ecological topics into our projects, for example:

- Year 7 - Elementals (CBU)
- Year 8 - Trees (SLE), Insect (SLE), Puppets from recycled materials (AST, JPQ, SLE)
- Year 9 - Identity Project (Ecological awareness, Pollution)
- Year 12 – Political Landscape (Plastic Pollution)

Classics

The Classics department has been focusing on species extinction through human activity in Roman times.

Design and Technology

The Design and Technology department is committed to reviewing their KS3 SoW and to see where they can add any discussion or additional elements linked to the environment. They are going to put up a display area that celebrates the projects that boys have done at KS3/4 that look at solving climate change and eco issues. The clean water pump/carrier would be an example of one of those, as would the 3D printed juicer/liquid carrier.

They already make use of recycled pallet wood for quite a few projects and they would like to have their own D and T noticeboard that highlights the best eco-friendly products/buildings, etc.

English

During the academic school year of 2019-20, Mrs Mauger encouraged her students to listen to Greta Thunberg's speeches as part of their knowledge of speech writing and understanding of environmental issues in preparation for their GCSEs. She has also encouraged them to listen to Autumn Peltier who, aside from being an amazing storyteller, has been an activist for longer than Greta. The students learnt that she is overlooked by mainstream media as she is an Indigenous Canadian – the lack of visibility for her is in part down to the racist structures of worldwide media outlets as Indigenous people still struggle to have their voices heard.

To readdress the balance and getting year 11s to realise the problems with media coverage and minority cultures, students listened to young environmental activists, watched Autumn's speeches and summarised what they said.

Debating

Mr Buchanan has reported that eco topics are being requested and debated by students including examples such as "We should all go vegetarian".

History

The History department has increased use of Firefly resources and scanned reading instead of printing information for students. For example, creating Year 12 and 13 additional reading as scanned booklets.

The Year 9 swinging '60s unit helps to create an understanding of how and why the trend of disposable fashion became the norm only relatively recently due to cheap mass-produced materials.

Geography

An impressive amount of work has been carried out in our Geography department.

On 8th January 2020, Mr Aplin reported that a new A Level module – "Contemporary Urban Environments / Managing the Urban Waste Stream" had started. There is also the Year 9 Environmental Geography, post exam project.

Mr Simon Huxtable's classes are investigating Transport, researching what the main issues affecting the global environment are, following with a discussion. They also investigate the main issues affecting Guernsey's environment, using of Venn diagram for PSE.

The students visited Chouet green waste site and Mont Cuet, the current landfill, investigating methane. They have also conducted a visit to Mayside North Side, to see the current sorting yard, learning about recycling and waste separation facility.

They followed up with mapping the waste, all the way to Sweden and compared with our way of dealing with waste with those of other islands and countries.

Maths

In the Maths building, we have stopped issuing plastic cups for the water dispenser and now have a sign up saying “for refilling reusable bottles only”. Also, we are cutting down our use of air-conditioning in the maths office significantly.

Music



Elizabeth College musicians have enjoyed participating in a scrap band, with instruments fashioned from a variety of unusual materials.

Science

The Science Department has long been an inspiration for many of us. It was amongst the first to campaign for no waste in their classrooms. Their assistant, Jo Byrne, used her spare time to recycle discarded glass used in the lessons years before we had a recycling scheme at the College.

In the Science Club, led by a passionate nature advocate and our Science teacher, Rachel Seymour, students conducted a “Before and After” survey, in the new Pollinators Patch established by Pollinators Project volunteers in front of our Refectory.

In February 2020, students did some washing and looked for microfibers from washing fleeces, then went on a Nurdle hunt!

Religious Studies

The Year 7 students have focused on pagan nature of worship and in Year 9 the students have learnt about Hinduism being reflective of nature

Wellbeing

Our Year 10 students have focused on climate change and ‘fake news’ in their wellbeing lessons, with Year 11 looking specifically at animal welfare.

I and D Week - Art



Pollinators sculpture and planting (SLE, CBU)



Cities from recycled cardboard (AST)

I and D Week - Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Even outdoors, the boys led by Dave Costen, used mugs instead of plastic cups to enjoy the hot chocolate, they prepared.

Estates and Maintenance Team Projects



Our Estates and Maintenance Team have made wonderful changes around the College, many replicated in our two sites at Elizabeth College Junior School – Beechwood and Acorn House.

The grounds have been mapped for introduction of recycling bins to the whole school – the number of bins needed were counted, requirements for the type of bins passed on to the Bursar and all staff informed. Checks and meetings with students and staff are in progression, to evaluate and improve current practice.

Contract to remove separated recycling has been secured.

Change in green waste disposal has been introduced and implemented - green waste is taken to a green site.

Water fountains were adapted for filling water bottles.

In Elizabeth College, material from renovating GATE House gallery over summer holidays – about two tons of slates were smashed and upcycled as weed control and pollinator - friendly spring bulbs have been planted in all borders.

Over a ton of old textbooks have been prepared for recycling (plastic coated covers removed) over the summer holidays.

The work in the Milnes Building has improved lighting, now using LED.

The loft is also correctly insulated. The building is far warmer, and we use the heaters far less frequently. Moreover, the new heaters are far more efficient.

The Physics laboratory benches were upcycled from existing wooden benches.

No extra plastic has been used on benches or flooring.

Lockable Eco notice boards near the Refectory were installed and 3 bug hotels were made by Bruno.

The Refectory

A Recycling and Reducing scheme have been introduced in the Refectory, led by the current Chef, John Fleming.

Many changes have been achieved in the Refectory – for example:

- replacing single use plastic cups for deserts and fruit with reusable ones
- significantly reducing the use of cling foil on deserts and fruit
- replacing Styrofoam containers for take-away meals with reusable ones
- replacing one-use coffee cups when possible, using less crockery and tissue when selling soup
- cease of bottled water sale, Yazoo sale ceased (surveys conducted first)
- single use plastic packaging replaced with bio-degradable one
- number of serviettes reduced – only one supplied with the soup



Community Projects

Raising money for Tree Planting

£510 was raised for Just One Tree appeal (£1 for each of our students, and 510 trees) thanks to Mrs Herquin and Charlie Cottam.). (Further Information: Parents For Future UK are working with JUST ONE Tree to mobilise a national non-uniform day on the 22nd of November 2019).

Donating used frames to Photography Festival from the Art Department



Our students were invited to attend the events organised by the Guernsey Photographic Festival, our long-standing source of valuable information, mainly for our GCSE and A-level courses. Most recently, we have visited for example:

‘Fragile Planet’ talk and a photographic exhibition by Mandy Barker.

“The Present” installation:

Art, D and T, Geography, and Business Studies staff and Pollinator Project volunteers – Sharka, Michelle, Matt, Brian, Ed, Vanessa and Jo Adams, organised a powerful Exhibition and Installation about plastic pollution at St James’.

The play on words – a metal cage, fashioned as a gift box and accompanied by a big bow represented the current times and provoked a question “What kind of a present are we leaving for the future generation?”.

This huge cage, positioned at the entrance of the building, held the amount of plastic waste which an average family uses per year. The cage has since been used for two other exhibitions highlighting ecological issues influencing our society.



Pollinator Project



Its coordinator, Vanessa Crispini -Adams introduced the Pollinator Project to our school. The students cleared an area alongside the Refectory Building and planted pollinator friendly plants including lavender, rosemary, thyme, catmint, fennel, sedums and Russian sage. The results have been appreciated by their new winged friends in summer.

Going forward, this area will be developed in conjunction with the Refectory team with the aim to grow herbs which are good for pollinators and can also be used by the school chefs.

British-Irish Council Summit



Mrs Crispini- Adams and Mrs Lee cooperated on several ecological projects over this school year. In June 2019, they were asked to organise the Elizabeth College sponsored Art Exhibition and Installation for the British-Irish Council Summit which was held at St Pierre Park Hotel in June. One of the key topics for discussion was marine plastic pollution and the exhibits were all created by members of our community to raise awareness of the increasing impact marine plastic pollution is having locally on our seas and beaches. Iconic photographs by Richard Lord also played important role in this exhibition.



EC Scouts Environmental Badge

Our Geography teacher, Brian Aplin used his horticultural expertise and advised the Scouts on how to achieve it.

Wild- life patches saved

Thanks to a willingness of all sides to communicate, the grassy areas in front of Science block have been preserved and not turned into a car park.

Exhibition of Year 7 and 8 artworks at Les Caches



Our I and D paper sculpture of the pollinating insect have been appreciated by both highly regarded experts in the field - the guest speakers, and members of community alike.

Planting at Le Guet and Cobo Vicarage field

Back in autumn, several EC students, some from Mr Aplin's Outdoor Pursuits group and some of Mrs Lee's year 7 Art students, enthusiastically planted acorns and conkers found in the College grounds. Nothing was seen in the pots during winter but suddenly, the little trees pushed their way through. With the help of their spouses (Marie and Roy) and under the expert guidance of La Societe volunteers Vanessa Crispini- Adams and Alistair Lyons, the group planted the seedlings in Le Guet and adjoining vicarage field.

These areas are under careful management where a more diverse range of trees and pollinator plants are being established. Respecting social distancing, the adults dug the holes, protected the trees against rabbits and covered the ground with mulch. They were even helped by a little passer- by, 4-year-old Faye, the daughter of OE Matthew Castle. She will see the trees grow to maturity in her lifetime. Thanks to everyone's love of nature a variety of hollies, oaks, and chestnuts got a great start in life and our students and their families can visit them in the months to come.





During the lockdown, the last finishing touches were applied to our Eco Team logo designed by our talented Eco Team Prefect Jack Cummins and Sam Chambers under supervision of our DT teacher Mrs Copeland. The students responded to a brief by the Principal - the logo must reflect the colours of Elizabeth College and clearly show the eco focus. The boys did an excellent job as blue and yellow colours in our crest mix into green of the leaf symbolising our green focus. A variation of this logo is used at the Junior school' Eco Team as well.



Back at the College during lockdown, May 2020



More areas dedicated to pollinators have been agreed on thanks to Brian, Tom, and Mike, which we are very happy about. For example, the unused areas under the cricket nets and the borders around the College fields are not going to be mowed during May to provide for the wildlife.

A fantastic job was carried out by our voluntary group of teachers from EC and Pollinator Project. On Sunday 14 June 2020, the whole day of work resulted in a beautiful revival of the Patch by the Art block where Pollinator project provided EC with new plants as the dry weather took its toll on many of the previous ones during the lock down.

Volunteers watered, weeded the area, and liberated several self-seeded trees (ash, oaks and holly) which butterflies and bees have already started to snack on! There is still a new area prepared for more pollinating plants to sow now and delight all in autumn.

Before:

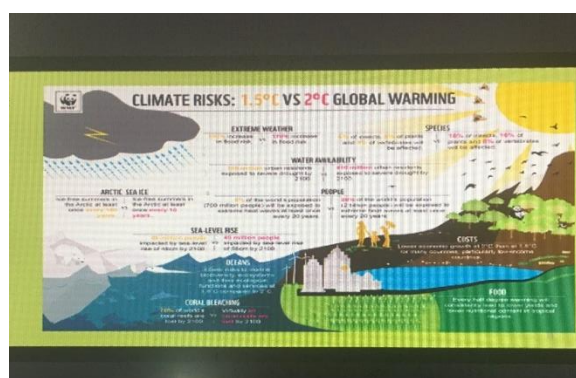


And after:



Charterhouse Climate Conference 15 to 19 June 2020

Several of our Year 11 and 12 students and teachers used the great opportunity to take part in the online Charterhouse Climate Conference this week. We were impressed by the wide range of relevant topics about global warming and sustainable living and really enjoyed the Conference prepared by young people our students can relate to. The string of experts providing the webinars, included the keynote speaker, Clair Perry O'Neil and the material from the webinars is currently being studied by our KS4 students and those preparing their GCSE and A-level projects.



Eco Day 17 June 2020

For the first time ever, we have a whole school Eco Day at Elizabeth College. In fact, both Senior and Junior schools took this opportunity to draw attention back to the Climate change because unlike Covid-19, it poses an ongoing threat to all of us. It has been estimated that the lockdown resulted in reduction of the global emissions by 4 -7 %. To keep the rise below “safe” 2 degrees, we need to reduce them 10 times as much!



To start the ball moving, we have focused our education on facts and solutions.

Following a bike safety video created by our Geography teacher and a keen cyclist, Mr Aplin, all students were encouraged to walk or cycle to school and bring a plant- based lunch with no single-use plastics, and as usual - their own water bottle.



"Thanks so much for organising this. Gabe and I have really enjoyed cycling into school this week and he wants to continue with it!" (Mr Buchanan)

Each lesson of every subject includes an eco-topic. Some teachers have voluntarily extended this activity to a whole week, so nobody misses out.

There is a competition prepared by the Eco Team with a PRIZE waiting for the winner and another quiz for tutor time.



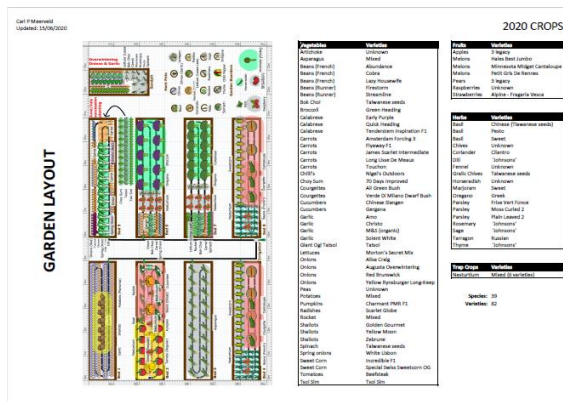
To encourage students to read and retain this information, there will be an interactive quiz available through Firefly. It will be a quick multiple-choice quiz, set on Quizalize. The quiz will be open to enter all day (last entries at 16:00) and the winner will be the person with the most correct answers (in the event of a tie, it will be who answered fastest).

PRIZE: A branded tote-bag with eco goodies; to include a metal reusable water bottle, seed set for starting own herbs, reusable cup, pollinator plant grower, Little Book of Going Green, and reusable silicone straw." The Prize will be presented to the winner by the Principal, Mrs Palmer.

This week's Eco Focus reaching our community



Both students and teachers are still emailing us photos from their wildlife and pollinator patches in their garden and we have been taken aback by the wealth of expertise about sustainable agricultural practices and the love of nature, which have been, until now, hidden out of sight in our school community. We hope that these beautiful examples will inspire others in the years to come!



The examples above are from Tom Meerveld and his Dad:

“This year we are trying Companion Planting. That is when you plant mutually beneficial plants together in a group. For instance, the Three Sisters technique used by North American Indians. They planted corn, beans, and pumpkins together. The corn provides a support for the beans to grow up, the pumpkins provide ground cover to reduce weeds and the mixture of plants confuse each other’s pests.

We also planted onions and carrots together. The onions mask the smell of the carrots from carrot flies and the carrots mask the smell of the onions from onion flies.

We also planted Nasturtium flowers around our plants as a Trap Crop. The Nasturtium is particularly attractive to Green Fly. Green Fly will feed on them rather than the other vegetables and their flowers attract pollinating insects.

This is a much more environmental way of farming rather than more model techniques. We also leave large areas of our land untouched as a habitat wildlife and pollinator.”



George Walker with locally sourced pollinator plants, garden of Felix Addenbrooke, wild orchid by Kate Garnett.



“Flowers the pollinators are loving in our garden. No pics of ceanothus as it’s now out of bloom but is basically a pollinator super hotel and so noisy with bees in bloom it can drown out conversation.”

(Mrs Buchanan, first two from the left); Dr Addenbrooke’s pollinator plant (above, far right)

We hope that these beautiful examples will inspire others in the years to come!

Left: “Beauty of a weed” by Sharka Lee and gardening for pollinators by Rachel Seymour (right)



Eco Day in Individual subjects

(presented in no particular order, the event is still ongoing)

Geography – Mr Aplin

Calculating Environmental footprint

Maths – Mr Garland

Tricky Environmental Maths questions

English - Mr Buchanan

In Year 7, boys have been studying nature and animal poems over the past weeks and are now writing a story based in a forest.

In Year 8, boys have been studying different role models with some choosing to write about David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg.

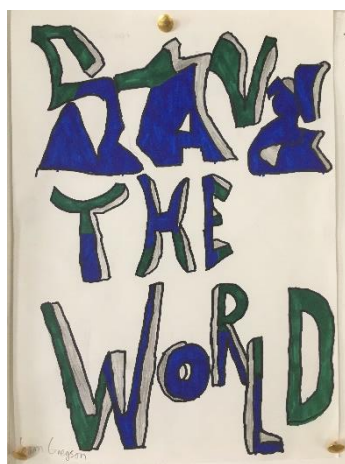
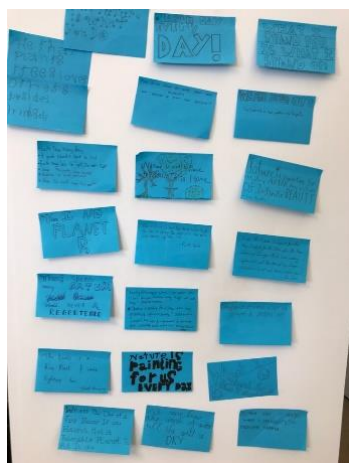
In Year 9, boys have been studying rhetoric and speech-making – again with an option on Greta Thunberg.

DT - Mrs Schofield

Planning an Award-Winning Sustainable Design

Art – Mr Stephens, Mrs Pendleton, Mrs Buchanan, Mrs Lee

Environmental presentation and Slogan Art



Music - Mrs Cross

Recycling landfill waste and transforming lives.

Watch and discuss 2 performances: [Stomp on CBBC](#) and [Land Fillharmonic](#)

Science - Mrs Seymour

Investigating National Data Collection

MFL - Mr Morris

During the week of 15th June, we will be showing students a video briefly outlining what environmental history is. We will then discuss.

With Year 9, we will be looking at the main environmental problems, learning about possible solutions, plus finding out how green the boys are – in German.

With Year 8, we will be covering weather vocabulary and we will discuss climate change

With Year 10, we will do similar work to that with Year 9.

Wellbeing – Mr Garland, Mrs Palmer, Dr Addenbrooke, Mr Eyton-Jones and Mrs Lee



This week, Year 9 have been viewing a video about recycling in Wellbeing and discussing the matter.

Year 10 students have delivered presentations of a chosen topic related to Climate Change and sustainable living – a part of a 6 week course.

History – Mr Rowson

Environmental History

"Environmental history explores the ways in which the biophysical world has influenced the course of human history and the ways in which people have thought about and tried to transform their surroundings."

Donald Worster