



ECO-SCHOOLS

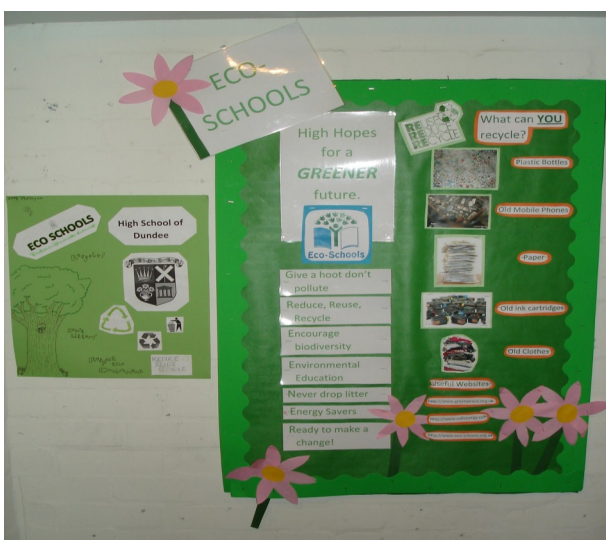
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The past session has been hectic for Eco-Schools in both Junior and Senior School. We have organised a full Environmental Review, where we looked at how environmentally friendly the school already is. We followed this up with an action plan and eco-code. We were in a fortunate position whereby a Bronze Award was attainable very promptly.



Junior School eco-schools group

Our Eco-code (also shown at the bottom of the page) is on display in the library.

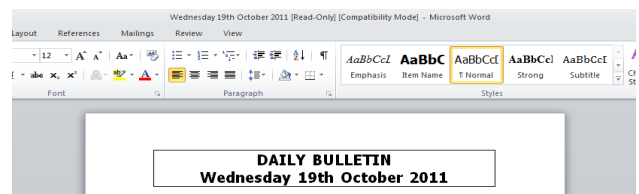


We have worked on improving energy consumption, waste reduction and recycling this session, to qualify for a Silver Award.

When we started investigating waste reduction within the school, to identify the areas most in need of work, we were pleased to see that Dr Fotheringham's paper recycling scheme, which has been popular throughout the school, continues to be a success. Work is now underway to expand this; an overwhelming number of staff and pupils have expressed support for the idea. The 'blue boxes' are very popular and are often full each week! The art department have asked for arrangements to be made for their recycling and Dr Fotheringham is monitoring the efficiency of this.

We were concerned by the amount of paper used in the daily bulletin. Mr Summerville asked all staff if they would be equally happy with an electronic alternative to the daily circulation of over 250 sheets of paper. The results of this were generally positive; a few areas had no facilities for accessing the network. We worked with the individuals concerned to identify a solution for their departmental needs.

We consulted Mr Christie, the Director of ICT, to investigate possible systems he would be able to put in place for this (shown below). We are very grateful for his assistance on this, as well as other areas for the award scheme.



Pupils produced a concise document detailing all our arguments and the statistics of both financial and environmental benefit from an electronic system. The Board of Studies supported a trial of the scheme, which was carried out throughout April and May. We are very grateful to them and to all the staff of the school for their support for the new system, which is now in place on a permanent basis.

In March, to mark World Book Day, the English Department organised a book swap. Senior School pupils and teachers donated 500 of their favourite books and were subsequently invited to choose a different book of their choice, free of charge. This was popular with pupils, and we will be looking into running a similar event in 2012. This prevented 500 books which were of use to other people being disposed of in less environmentally friendly ways.

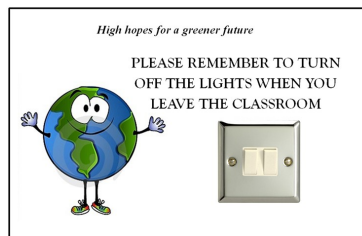


On the energy front, we have introduced a number of changes.

Obviously computers are a huge source of energy demand within the school, and the progress we have made would have been impossible without the assistance and support of Mr Christie. We are pleased to report that computers have now had software installed, which enables them to 'sleep' after inactivity whilst at the same time responding almost immediately to demand. Limited problems have been experienced through this scheme but these have been addressed as they have arisen.

Lighting is another main area of energy usage within the school. Mr Kyles, the facilities manager, has been very helpful. He has arranged a pilot test of occupancy switches, which turn off lights in vacant rooms. There have been issues with these, however progress has been made and it is hoped a resolution might be reached soon.

We have designed and produced signs directing people to switch off lights when they leave



classrooms, which were launched just after half-term. If these are considered to be successful, we will try to develop a

similar notice for computing equipment such as monitors and printers.

We aimed to further reduce Energy Usage through the planning of an Earth Period for Thursday, 20th October. We encouraged members of the school community to switch off lights and computing equipment for Period 6. Pupils were asked to ensure mobile phones and iPods were switched off, rather than in silent mode, in order to reduce their personal electrical footprints.

We hope that members of the community realise the minimal impact of switching the lights off. However with over a thousand people, it all adds up!

These are only a flavour of the many exciting projects the Eco-Schools group has participated in and organised. We hope to achieve our Silver award soon, and then work towards the prestigious Green Flag.



Senior School eco-schools group

