



Written by Eco Action:
*"Saving the World, one
tree at a time."*

T.E.E The Eco Express

Issue 2
Autumn Term

WELCOME!

Hi and thanks for reading the second edition of TEE! (The Eco Express) . This newsletter will keep you all up to date on the work of Eco Action, and basically anything Eco or Green-related.

It's just the start of this academic year, so expect a summary of who we are, the work we've done over the past year, what our future plans are, what we've done so far and how YOU can get involved and "Heal the World!"

WHO ARE WE??

Eco Action is the college's very own group of greenies who fight environmental campaigns in college, the local community and around the World. We now have 26 budding new lower sixth recruits, along with 3 upper sixth members, and aim to raise awareness and tackle environmental issues that face us today.



WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

This year we have been getting the green message out there through the Eco Code, the college's set of principles that aim to lower our carbon footprint. Working together is crucial for us to make a real difference in college; but it doesn't stop there, the principles of the Eco Code can be applied to your everyday habits and you can bring change to your lives outside college.

On October 20th, 3 representatives from Oxfam visited college to inform us, as Eco Action, of some of the global issues that they tackle on a day to day basis.

As an organisation, they have several main areas they aim to tackle: debt & aid, climate change, conflict & disaster response, gender equality, education, health, HIV & Aids, private sector and trade & livelihoods. Oxfam works in 99 countries around the world, including the UK. It is often overlooked, but even wealthy countries such as the UK need support, with more than 13 million people living in poverty, that's 1 in 5!!



The hype about climate change and global warming may seem trivial in our country, with the long wet summer this year just being a bit of a drag; but in many developing countries closer to the equator, it's having a massive impact, and it's not even their fault. Climate change is changing rainfall patterns, drying up river beds, giving rise to newer and more harmful pests and creating a situation where natural disasters like cyclone, floods and landslides in developing countries are becoming more serious and prolific. What we do here in the UK, has widespread impacts around the globe, and as a community, it's our responsibility to protect our less able neighbours.

How Can We Help??

The most common thought when it comes to charities is donation either as a monthly contribution or charity bucket, but there are lots of other ways you can get involved and make a difference:

- 🕒 Posting a status or link on Facebook or Twitter raises awareness of the issues Oxfam are presenting, with the option to add Oxfam as a friend!!
- 🕒 If you've already started planning or getting Christmas presents then maybe consider Oxfam Unwrapped which allows you to give two presents in one. Not only does the recipient of your gift gain something of worldly value, you also provide essentials for survival and development in a struggling country. Whilst that might not be ideal for your friends, maybe your parents or relatives might appreciate it.

[<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/>]

Eco action has been part of many successful initiatives within college but here are a few of the key projects which we were involved in last year:

ECO FEST

On April 3rd 2010, the college held EcoFest, a celebration of all things environmentally friendly which helped raise awareness on climate change and environmental issues. This coincided with the visit of 28 Turkish students and staff from our partner school in Gazimir. This was part of an Eco exchange raising awareness of climate change. The college visited Turkey in 2009 and they came over in April for 11 days taking in the sites of Blackpool and visiting eco-sites such as the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales.



AWARDS!!!



At the start of last year, the college was awarded the:

Blackpool Civic Trust Environmental Award for the role of Eco Action and reductions made in the college's carbon footprint.

Eco Action also got nominated for the:

Eco Friendly Enterprise award due to the successful EcoFest event, Turkish Exchange and our general awesomeness at raising awareness of eco issues.

ED MILIBAND

When Ed was Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, he visited Blackpool Sixth, to tell us about the Labour Party's environmental policies, and to answer questions about the 2010 election.



BIODIVERSITY

Last year we planted many new trees and flowers, including strawberries in college. We conducted lichen surveys and went on a moth spotting night, which resulted in a cold night with 13 moths for 12 people!!

Going For Green!!

The college is part of the Eco Schools scheme which is an international programme which helps schools and colleges to become more sustainable. The scheme runs in 46 countries worldwide, with more than 40 000 schools and colleges taking part.

The college gained the bronze eco-schools award, with the silver award gained at the end of last year due to the hard work of the Eco Team. This means that we as a college are conscious of our duty to be energy efficient and eco friendly.

What did we do for Silver??

- 🌱 Achieved a 12% reduction in paper purchasing
- 🌱 Achieved an 11% reduction in material going to landfill
- 🌱 Reduced CO₂ consumption by 7.2 tonnes due to paper compared to previous year
- 🌱 Planted over 60 native trees
- 🌱 Hosted Turkish students as part of our international climate change partnership
- 🌱 Raised £500 at Eco Fest: an environmental community outreach day
- 🌱 Hosted a “Dragon’s Den” competition for Eco ideas for the college



Now we have achieved the silver award, we're going for the Green Flag, which is literally a flag that can be hung from the college flag pole with pride. This involves further projects to help make the college more sustainable and make us a truly 'green' institution.

What do we want to combat this year??

- 🌱 Litter: with over 2000 students litter is an issue, especially in eating areas such as the dining hall. This makes it more unpleasant to use these areas and degrades the environment.
- 🌱 Transport: Everyone's aware of the rising petrol and diesel prices; however, there are underlying problems of oil depletion and that means the more oil, the less we'll have in the future. Why not consider car sharing, or a rota for pick ups which will not only reduce your fuel costs, but also reduce the cost to the environment !!

You can help us to become the 1,219th school world wide to gain Green Flag!!

WHAT WE AIM TO DO THIS YEAR

This year, we have started by looking at campaigns we can take on ranging from:

A Swap Shop

Where you can swap unwanted clothes for something new to you. This reduced energy involved in making clothing and moving it to shops. It also helps liberate the Primark slaves!

Becoming Fair Trade

It's ethically friendly and doesn't break the bank. If Cadbury can go Fair Trade with no problems so can we! This means that we have to write up a Fair Trade Policy, use and sell Fair trade products as much as possible, and host Fair Trade events at least once a term, all things which will help us to engage more with the international community.

Supporting Oxfam Initiatives

Following the presentation, we intend to create a partnership with Oxfam, raising awareness of their campaigns and some of the issues that they have presented. We're starting to do this through sponsorship; with several members of Eco Council living without luxuries such as chocolate and fizzy drinks, to the more extreme of living off £2 a day for all food, drink and transport.

ECO CODE

We, the students and staff of The Blackpool Sixth Form College will show our respect for the environment and for the future of our world by:

1. Reducing waste of all kinds to a minimum
2. Helping to keep the College clean and free from litter
3. Only printing when really necessary
4. Using the recycling facilities fully and properly
5. Switching lights off when not needed
6. Switching off computers and other devices when not in use
7. Walking, cycling, taking public transport or car-sharing when possible
8. Taking an interest in our local, national and global environment and helping to protect it for generations to come

WHAT CAN I DO?

Oxfam's 'Call for a Fair Deal' Action Campaign

Climate change often affects the poorest first, despite being the ones who contribute the least. This is not fair. Sign up for the Fair Deal petition to lobby the government to support those that are suffering because of climate change.

www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/fairdeal

"Take an interest, and look after our World, for yourself, and for the generations to come"

Thanks for reading this issue of TEE

Feel free to email any feedback or ideas to Eco Action on First Class