



Spring First Half Term Edition

# ECO NEWSLETTER

## Introduction from the Chairs of the Eco Committee - Alice and Elena

*"The Eco Committee is a devoted college collective of students and staff who work for change in the college involving our eco footprint and the general outlook on the environment. This newsletter helps to inform the wider college community of the significance and pure impact of sustainability. Please consider the actions we take in order to make a more environmentally-friendly society, and if you care as deeply as we do, please read on. If you have any questions please see the emails at the bottom."*



## A Look Back at 2025 **Eco Successes at Blackpool Sixth**

- Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction for a second year running
- Cut carbon footprint by 53 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, a 16% cut in one year (2024-25) - the equivalent of avoiding 132,000 miles of travel in a petrol car or 6.3 million smartphone charges
- Generated 17,930 Kilowatt Hours of electricity from our solar panels - the equivalent of the electricity consumed by 7 average households in a year
- Planted 400 trees + created more wildlife habitat (we even had Roe Deer come into our grounds!)
- Ran a 'Love Our Oceans' week in college, highlighted study routes and careers linked to marine conservation and raised funds for UOCEAN 2050.
- Became an official release site for rescued hedgehogs
- Continued to increase recycling - now up to 65% of all college waste
- Held a 'Oceans of Plastic' environment and wellbeing event in November 2025
- Helped to grow eco education across the Fylde Coast through our leading role in the Fylde Coast Eco Schools Network and the Lancashire Youth Climate group

**Alice and Elena**



## Eco Schools England feedback to Blackpool Sixth July 2025

*"Your increased engagement beyond the college community has created lasting connections between young people, schools, and environmental organisations. Organising the 'Love Our Oceans' art competition shows a commitment to creative education, ensuring younger students engage with important environmental themes in an accessible and inspiring way."*

## Climate in the news:

*"The fossil fuel age is ending. Clean energy is rising. Let us make the transition fair, fast, and final."*  
UN Secretary-General António Guterres November 2025.

# Introducing the Eco Committee 2025-26

## Post holders:

### Co-chairs

Alice Tarpey and Elena Noblett

### Deputy Chair

Jessica Gbolahan

### Planning Officer

Seth Eze

### Project Officers

Seth Eze (Energy), Jessica Gbolahan (Transport)

### Committee Secretary

Angel Dunlop

### Communication Officer

Alice Tarpey



## Staff members:

**Jon McLeod** (ALM, Eco Schools Co-ordinator)

**Danny Topping** (BSIT)

**Rick Plowman** (Estates)

**Jo Catlow-Morris** (Wellbeing)

**Laura Bentley** (Science)

**Ross Chambers** (ALS)

## Environmental Review 2025

As part of our Eco Schools programme, the Eco Committee carried out a review of our college's performance in the 10 key Eco Schools themes.



This year, we scored particularly strongly in biodiversity and school grounds due to our work on wildlife habitat. We also did very well in areas such as global citizenship because of our charity fundraising and awareness raising about climate change. Similarly our focus on ocean protection last year gave us a great score for the marine topic.

We identified the need to improve our performance in the following areas in particular: **energy** (participation of staff and students in energy-saving measures), **transport** (encouraging sustainable ways of travel to and from college) and **waste** (improving recycling and cutting single-use plastics).

# Action Plan 2025-26

Based on the annual environmental review, the Eco Committee has chosen the following three themes as the basis for the 2025-26 action plan: Waste, Energy, Transport.

We are targeting a 5% increase in the amount of waste being recycled and a 5% reduction in our gas consumption. We also want to increase the number of journeys made to and from college on foot, by bike or by public transport but first need to gain more data on this.

The main actions which we have included in the plan are listed below.

## Energy

- 'Switch it off' campaigns and monitoring across the college
- Keeping heating levels comfortable but not unnecessarily warm
- Investigating further use of renewable energy sources for the college
- Informing staff, students and parents about energy saving measures they can use at home to cut bills and cut their carbon footprint

## Waste

- Helping to cut the use of single-use plastics and encourage/incentivise the use of reusables e.g. for water / hot drinks
- Improving our recycling facilities and making it clearer which bin to use
- Encouraging a reduce, reuse, repair, recycle approach in college and outside college

## Transport

- Getting more information about how staff and students travel to and from college and what the barriers are to sustainable and active travel e.g. walking, cycling and public transport
- Encouraging people to swap petrol/diesel car journeys for sustainable travel where possible for wellbeing and the environment

## What can you do to help?

- Follow our '5 A Day For the Environment' Eco Code in college and at home
- Participate in the campaigns and activities organised by the Eco Committee
- Send your suggestions and ideas for 'eco' improvements to the Eco Committee
- Keep yourself informed about action on climate change and other environmental topics

### 5 a day for the Environment

1. Choose local food
2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
3. Use less water
4. Save energy
5. Travel sustainably





## Focus on Energy



In college energy saving day-to-day is a lot about switching off lights and devices when not in use and keeping temperatures comfortable but not over warm.



There's a lot you can do though at home (or encourage parents/carers and others to do). Below are the top easy-to-do energy and money saving tips from the Energy Saving Trust:

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy)

The EST estimate savings of around £350 per year for the average household through taking a few simple and largely cost-free steps.

- Draught proof your windows and doors
- Avoid the tumble dryer
- Spend less time in the shower
- Switch off standby mode for devices
- Top up your hot water cylinder insulation
- Don't overfill your kettle, and fit a tap aerator
- Use fewer, colder washes for your laundry
- Fill your dishwasher
- Swap your bath for a shower
- Turn off lights

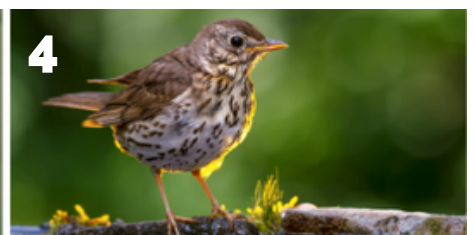
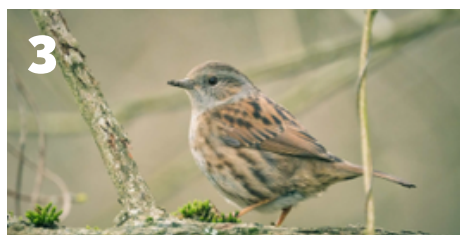
## Quiz Time!

In January each year the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds runs the Big Garden Bird Watch, Britain's biggest 'citizen science' wildlife survey. The data helps with conservation and it's easy to take part in - you don't even need a garden!

Here's a little quiz to test your bird knowledge. Just identify these 4 common British garden birds and send your answers, labelled 1 to 4 to:

[jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)

Winning entries received by 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 will be entered into a prize draw for a hamper of garden bird treats and some wildflower seeds.



## Coming soon - Love Your Outfit, Love the Planet!

The Eco Committee will be working with BTEC Fashion students to organise a second-hand clothes sale and swap event in the run up to Valentine's day. This will be your chance to empty your cupboards of good-quality clothes you no longer need and have some fun choosing some wonderful stylish bargains for the year ahead. Look out for the announcements!