

## **Eco-Ambassadors and Sustainability 2015-2016 Report by R Needham**

### **What has been done this year**

- Gained 18 new Eco-Ambassadors to take over from the now year 11 pupils. This was done by application.
- Set about creating an edible campus.
  - Planted the allotment area with easy grow foods.
  - As we planted I taught the pupils how to maintain their own allotment.
  - Asked Food Technology if food can be used in their cooking, this way pupils can see how food is used from seed to table.
- Introduced the whole school Healthy Living Logo House Competition.
  - The design has been passed on for use in the school cafeteria.
- Set up with Clare Batson an assembly in June for the Eco-Ambassadors to complete a whole school awareness of the need to eat healthy and how it benefits them.
  - The following week will be the school's Healthy Living week.
- Created a lesson that was taught to all year 8 on the Respect Day teaching them about global poverty. (Eco-Ambassadors ran the sessions).
- Creating a pupil friendly Eco-hub where pupils can access growing information and healthy recipes using home grown products. (Design stage at present, to be ready by June 2016).
- Collaborated with Chorley Council on their new war memorial in Astley Park.
  - Pupils have created an information board for the memorial.

### **Next steps**

- Create a Sustainability Conference for the local feeder Primary Schools for an afternoon in the 2nd half of Summer term.
- Look at improving our energy bills at school and look at new ways of supplying/saving energy in classrooms.
- Change the focus for the Eco-Ambassadors to another topic on the Green Flag whilst still emphasising the importance of eating healthy.

After the success of 2015 bringing about the renewal of the schools Green Flag award which is up for renewal again in the spring of 2017 I decided to set my sights on trying to tackle an ongoing issue that I hope will start to get good student backing which is the 'Healthy Living' as named by 'Eco-Schools'.

In this I have aimed to start to create an edible campus school which has been assisted by the school's Connect Group in planting a variety of fruit trees creating a small orchard at the front entrance of school. On top of this the Eco-Ambassadors have also redug and planted new easy grow foods in the school allotment area. We are now in the process of buying a water butt to attach to the Student Social Area drain pipe for watering purposes.

By completing the orchard and the allotment area I have already discussed with the Food Technology staff the possibility of using the food we grow at school in the food that pupils will make in their lessons. This will hopefully give an added purpose to the growing as pupils will be able to see the concept of 'seed to table' in action within their own school. To help with the learning benefit of the scheme, myself and the Eco-Ambassadors are currently designing and creating a pupil friendly Eco-hub on the stairwell of South Wing. In this scheme my hopes are for pupils to create a learning environment that any pupil can access when walking between lessons enabling them to pick up any tips for growing their own produce at home and also healthy recipes that include very simple ingredients that create both a healthy and delicious meal.

Furthermore I have recently ran a school wide house competition to create a 'Healthy Living' logo which has been passed on to Sharon the Head Chef in the cafeteria and she has said that the logo should start to feature after the May half term. My hopes with this logo is that pupils are able to become more aware of the

options that they are eating at school and hope that by having a logo they can see what is classed as a healthy meal and what isn't.

In June the Eco-Ambassadors will be completing an assembly explaining the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle and how it can benefit a person's studies alongside their mental and physical health. The following week the pupils will be challenged to participate in a healthy week where they will be encouraged to eat healthily and also to take alternative travel via either walking or cycling.

Overall the main learning outcomes this year have been for the Eco-Ambassadors to develop an understanding of healthy living through hands on experience; and in the Summer term the Ambassadors will pass on their knowledge and understanding to the whole school.

Next year I hope to carry on with the sustainable living aspect by inviting Primary Schools to a Sustainability Conference afternoon at school which will be run by the Eco-Ambassadors. After this we will be deciding which aspects of the Green Flag award we would like to concentrate on and once again bring about a whole school awareness of the topics.

As part of a Respect Day I also created a session which was run in two classrooms all day by the Eco-Ambassadors where they were learning about global poverty. In this I had 6 Ambassadors using the resource I created to teach the year 8 pupils about global poverty. The pupils seemed very positive about the lesson and the Ambassadors enjoyed the opportunity to teach their fellow peers.

I have also been working with Chorley Council on a memorial project for in Astley Park. A small group of the Ambassadors have recently just finished creating an information board that will be put alongside the memorial commemorating the role of the residents of Chorley in the war effort.

Separate to this I have been looking into strategies and schemes for reducing our energy consumption as a whole school. I hope in the future to be able to introduce renewable energy schemes in the school.

### **Year 9 pupil**

*Over my time as an Eco Ambassador, I have had the privilege to partake in a variety of activities that have all been as exciting and rewarding as the next. From replanting the school flower beds to planning respect days, every activity and challenge has enabled me to work as part of a larger force to make a change in the right direction in terms of making the school 'greener'.*

*However, there has been one project that has really stood out for me and this is where we have been working with Chorley Council. In December, a man named Robert Webster (who is the Street-scene and Parks Manager) came in to the school and asked us to create something that would sit alongside a new memorial garden that is being created within the Astley Park grounds. Our task was to produce two different boards containing information surrounding the park and Chorley during the war. The research that was conducted to gain this information gave me a historical insight on Chorley that I didn't have prior to this activity. It also helped me develop my online publishing skills and think about what was being written and why it was being done.*

*I really enjoy all aspects of being an Eco Ambassador and am looking forward in partaking in different events throughout the rest of my time at Parklands.*

### **Year 9 pupil**

*Throughout my time as a member of the Eco Ambassador team I have thoroughly enjoyed numerous activities. This is from helping out planting in the Parklands garden area, creating house competitions to allow every pupil to take part and also designing our Eco - Board! I also really enjoyed being a part of the team for the Astley Park memorial area and I was privileged and honoured to be involved in such a great opportunity.*