

Lewis School Pengam Eco-Schools

Lewis School's Eco project has really gathered pace this year since it was initiated in September 2007.

Worldly-wise pupils of Lewis School, Pengam have been busy reducing their carbon footprint to earn 'Eco-Schools' Silver Award status. With weekly meetings in progress the youngsters have worked tirelessly to change their school's environment and how to reach the local community along the way. The main target for this year is to reach the prestigious 'Green Flag' status.

The Eco-Committee has planted more than 30 trees in the school grounds with another thirty to accompany them in the Spring term. Its not just a project involving the pupils; teachers, parent governors and Council representatives have been hard at work, caring for the future impact of Lewis School in the community. The School grounds have had a real uplift and the Eco team have enthusiastically taken part in the Valley's Clean Up scheme.

Younger pupils were introduced to how the local community is affected by dropping litter in the school grounds and how it is everyone's responsibility to pick up after them. Apart from these big projects, the school recycles paper, plastic bottles and even mobile phones.

The local community has not been left out in the plans of these youngsters. A recently acquired allotment in Penpedairheol has got the youngsters to swap their pencils and pens for shovels and spades to learn how to manage a productive garden and to easily take in their 5-a-day fruit and veg. The

development of the allotment went so well it was entered into the Caerphilly County Borough Council's Caerphilly in Bloom Competition.



"The boys and girls in the Eco-School's group have really showed their commitment to the school and the local community by spending their time to help reduce environmental impacts. It's really refreshing to see this type of proactive learning in action and not just a curriculum assessed subject." said Lorraine Barnes, Eco-Schools Co-ordinator at Lewis School.

"I really enjoy helping out with the Eco-Schools work. It has made me take pride in my school and think about the world and people around me." explains one youngster.

Lewis School Pengam also supported the launch of Caerphilly's sustainability strategy at Ty Penallta on Friday 14th November showing staff and dignitaries what advances the school has made over the 15 months.

The impact of Climate Change has proved wider reaching changing people's attitudes to the world around them and the impact of our modern age.



In January 2008, James Fletcher was appointed as one of the six Climate Change Champions. James impressed the judges by demonstrating his passion for making a difference, largely from a visit to Egypt. Since his appointment James has represented Wales around the world travelling to the Netherlands, and Japan sharing ideas about sustainable development from all around the world.

James also organised an inspirational address by David Noble one of the world's leading climate change expert. The Climate Change Convention held on the 9th October was a great success with many local schools, the British Council and further dignitaries attending.