

eCool Project

Because being eco-friendly is cool

INTRODUCTION

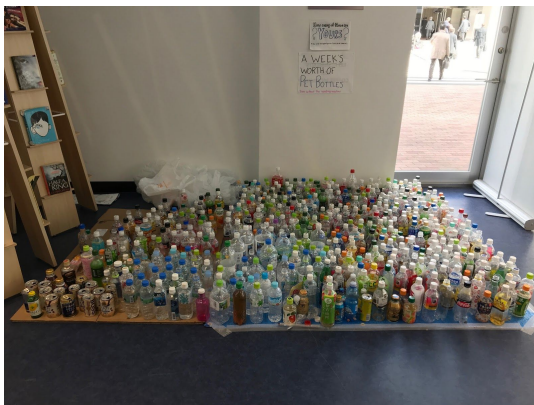
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The eCool Team (from left to right): Flora Fushii-McIntosh, Mahi Patki, Mizuki Takahashi



Being a small and cohesive group with a wide range of strengths, we have decided not to delegate a leader nor assign responsibilities to each member. We have instead chosen to take advantage of our small size to maximize teamwork and communication between members.

PROJECT AIM



Just like our project name, eCool, we intended to spread the notion that 'being eco-friendly is cool'. More specifically, our aim was to raise the general awareness of the importance of recycling and mindful resource consumption and production within our everyday lives - in this case, within the school community. The issue of resource wastage, such as the excessive usage of paper, was apparent in our daily school lives. Witnessing such issues on frequent occasions instigated our inner drive to improve the school environment into a cleaner place, where wastes will be a rare sight to see, whilst encouraging students to reflect upon their own carbon footprint within their daily lives.

OVERVIEW

The eCool team has attempted to encourage greater conversations among students in regards to their consumption habits through varied means, outlined below:

- **eCool challenges:** this was to gain both a better understanding of the school's attitude towards the current environmental situation of the world, as well as encourage participation through friendly house competition.

- **Posters** (from reused paper) put up around the school to make make people think before they buy a drink from the vending machine, or when printing out paper. The Japanese phrase for ‘no bag please’ is also written on some posters to encourage reduction of plastic bags in everyday life in Japan.
- **Clean week:** Pet bottles were banned, and vending machine was closed, and we also had a competition to see which tutor group has the most number of reusable water bottles. As part of a tutor group activity, discussion prompts were made to encourage contemplation on one’s current actions. Alongside this, we also had a kahoot, to highlight & unveil any eye-opening facts regarding plastic waste. We also planned a Green day, where lights, air conditioning and smart boards turned off for 5 lessons. The use of paper was discouraged (ended up playing charades in most lessons)
- **Pet bottles collection** - through the course of a week, we collected pet bottles in the morning and set them up in the reception area, to document the amount of waste the school creates in a visual manner. There was a total of 498 bottles (without the vending machine - the main souce of PET bottles), in which will be used to construct a greenhouse.

OUTCOMES

Success	Failure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified the main areas of improvement for the school community, such as the wastage of paper ● encouraged environmental consciousness in a Year 5 class by including them in projects such as the future building of a greenhouse ● Inspired several students within the school, commenting on the objective of our project whenever they see us ● On Green Day the majority of lessons used minimal resources ● Managed to start an eCool club so that the concept will stick with BST for the rest of its life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persistence needed in convincing our fellow sixth-formers in cooperating with our project ● Miscommunication with the school staff, whereby the vending machine was shut down during the PET bottle collection week. ● Some of the students still continue to use PET bottles ● Some teachers still print out an unnecessary amount (they could just post on Google Classroom, as per our recommendation)

PERSONAL GAINS FROM PROJECT

- Organizational skills have improved, as we have to balance our studies with this project
- A good break from studying and contributing something meaningful to our community.
- Presentation skills have developed since we had to present to teachers multiple rest of the community that a little changes is all that’s needed to bring about a revolutionary change
- Communication skills have sharpened, for we had to work with ra range of people, from the primary school students to the senior staffs
- Developed greater appreciation for all the sustainable development projects in existence

All in all, we can all agree as a team that the eCool Project was worth all the time that we had sacrificed.