

eCool Project

Because being eco-friendly is cool

Our Aim

Our aim is to raise awareness of various environmental issues, with a specific emphasis on plastic pollution. We seek to encourage people in our community to be more mindful of the waste that they produce, to meet our goal of achieving sustainable consumption and production.



A few memorable incidents from the year:

- During one of our Maths lesson, a classmate of ours grumbled about practices in encouraging the refusal of plastic bags, who in fact, admitted to getting a bag out of spite. Before we could say anything our Maths teacher dramatically (emphasis added) went up behind him and said: 'Why would you do that? Do you not care?'. Proceeding the incident, the student – alongside his friends – had rather miraculously stopped using plastic bags.
- On one of the school ski trips, two of our teachers told the students that they will not be allowed to get plastic bags and bottles at any rest stops. In fact, Mr Grimshaw, in charge of outdoor activities had even gone as far as to encourage pupils to pick up any litter they find on the way.
- During term 2, when the plastic bottle ban started, the Heads of House conducted a intrahouse competition to see which tutor group had the most reusable water bottles.

As the many examples suggest, our eCool initiative would not have gotten the momentum it did without the teachers' support.

Major obstacles we faced:

- Passivity of students and thus tackling their idle behaviour and indifferent attitudes to environmental sustainability.
 - Building the greenhouse: As we had no prior knowledge or expertise in doing this, we had to figure out everything from the design of the greenhouse to physically building it. We were very lucky that we got the support from Mr Knill to build the frame and guide us in the right direction.
 - We tried to get BST to take part in the SEGO beach clean initiative, 2 weeks before it was going to happen. However, because we were on Spring holiday, we could not get a teacher to accompany us—a requirement for the beach clean—so it got cancelled. From this we learnt that at the
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beginning of next years project we should map out all the different events that we want to take part in, so that we can make the time to work on them.

Personal gains from the project

- Teamwork: there were a lot of ideas and so division of labour was a suitable approach. Whether it was during sports day or making the eCool broad, some students call us 'the most functional team in BST'.
- Getting to know our community better and getting closer with other students who support our initiative.
- Learning from failures: we learnt that people don't like to be told what to do, however if they aren't told they may never realise what they are doing wrong. There is a fine balance that must be maintained, so that others take our suggestions positively.
- Time management: as most members of the team will be taking exams this year, we had to balance our time spent on studies and eCool.

Sustainability of the project

- Eco-schools Green flag award: to make this movement sustainable, the school signed up to this award. Since it has to be renewed every 3 years, the school will have to maintain the environmental standard and carry out different projects to be 'eCool'.
- As many members of our team are in year 13, they will be graduating soon. The current year 11s will thus lead the team next year. This will involve: recruiting new members, taking part in the COBIS GSL competition, and advancing the projects that will get our school Green flag certification.
- One of the candidates for head prefect in our school, has proposed that we get solar panels in our school, so that alongside using sustainable energy, it will be a great opportunity for students to learn about solar power. Although this will be challenging and very expensive, we have learnt from the eCool project - there is no harm in trying!
- On the 30th of May, Junji Takasago, a nature photographer will be coming to BST to talk about his work. Alongside fundraising, this will raise awareness.

Members of our community we would like to thank: Mr Knill, Mr Sewell, Mr Speller, Mr Pye, Mr Grimshaw, Mr Keeble-Watson, Mr Elliott, Ms Woods, Mrs Trachonitis, Mr Morris, Mr Taylor, Mr Thomas.

This was another wonderful year for the eCool team, as we further encouraged a slightly more sustainable lifestyle. Our team expanded from just 3 members, and now we have supporters throughout the school community. This project has given us the courage to keep on trying, and to overcome all the obstacles in the way. We have shown the rest of our school that a position or title is not needed to make an impact and we are extremely proud to give members of our community a reliable team that makes things happen. We hope to convince everybody that there is nothing cooler than being environmentally friendly.