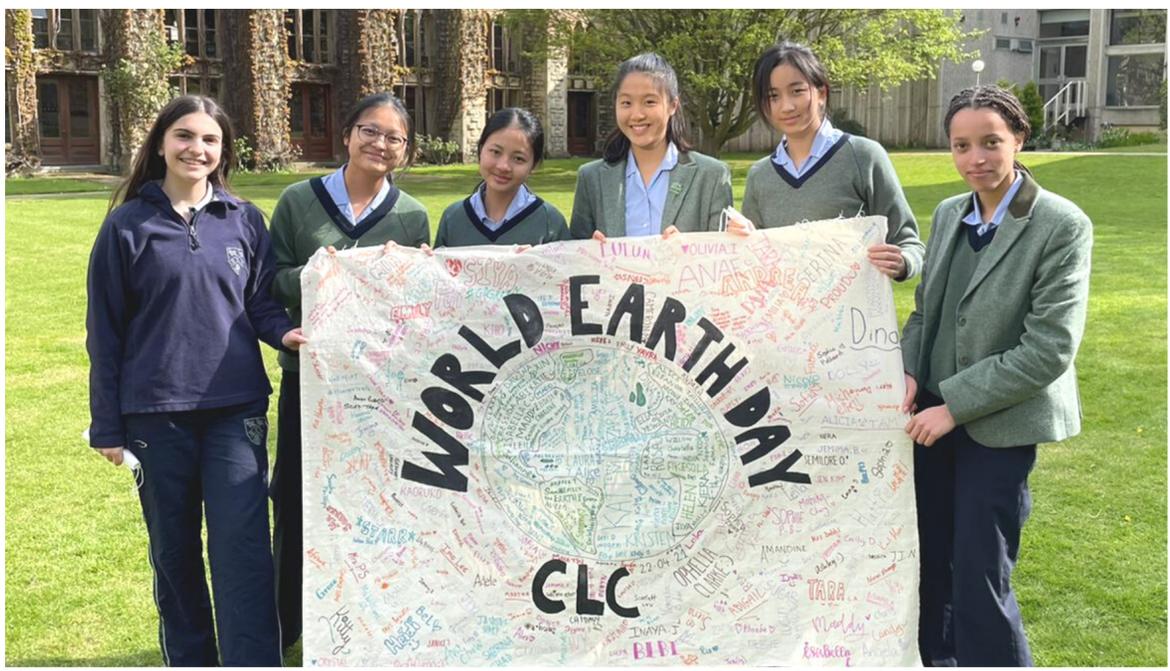


# GEN ECO



@ggeneco  
@gslconnect



**GEN ECO is devoted to advocating sustainability during COVID-19, current affairs and spreading awareness on the impacts that COVID-19 can have on both our mental and physical health.**

**#3:** We mainly worked towards this goal by sending masks and hand sanitisers to areas in need of immediate COVID-19 relief. Our distribution of handbooks with information on how to protect ourselves from the virus also helps keep a variety of communities safe and educated.

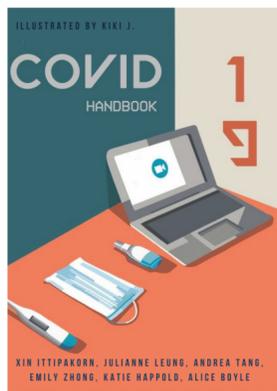
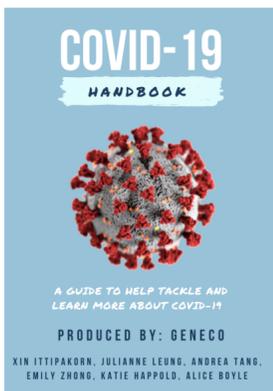
**#4:** To capture our passion for quality education we focused on making the information we are explaining on our Instagram page and handbook as accessible and understandable for everyone.

**#11:** To contribute in creating sustainable cities and communities we worked in the cities around us, distributing care packages in Hong Kong and Thailand as well as working with organisations around our school area of Cheltenham to spread information on COVID-19 via our handbook.

**#17:** By initiating our project 'gslconnect', it enabled us to reach out to and partner with organizations around the world. We helped others promote their projects and effectively communicated between each other by starting a group chat. Gslconnect also has the potential to hold virtual conferences with international organisations to pitch ideas and partnerships.

## COVID-19 HANDBOOK OBJECTIVES

- Help individuals who do not have internet connection
- Provide guidance to all types of people regardless of age on the topic of COVID-19 and how to stay safe
- Distribute our handbook to as many people as possible within Cheltenham and across our respective countries
- Acknowledge all aspects of our lives which are affected by COVID-19 not just the ones regarding physical health



**Link to handbook:**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11GPdPdW6ktLvyDmHjm5Ean0Sev-D1mWU/view?usp=sharing>

### @ggeneco instagram page

- Keep the people around us and globally in loop with areas of news surrounding COVID-19 and any updates on our handbook
- Create easy to understand posts on the pandemic, by producing much of the aesthetics for the page ourselves

### @gslconnect instagram page

- Provide a platform for other GSL teams to share their projects and encourage collaboration and support amongst GSL teams
- Around 100 organisations following this account

## HIGHLIGHTS!

- Created a COVID-19 handbook that includes an overview of COVID-19 and guides on face masks, hand sanitisers, charities and being more sustainable
- Translated the handbook into 2 other languages: Chinese, Thai
- Distributed digital and physical copies to various places in Thailand, Hong Kong, and UK
- Organised free-dress day devoted to celebrating World Earth Day
- Gathered over 500 staff and students to sign a banner representing their support for the protection of the environment
- Initiated gslconnect which gathered different organisations and encouraged future partnerships
- Used instagram as a platform to educate and raise awareness for key ideas surrounding COVID-19
- Packed and delivered essential care packages to remote communities within Thailand
- Fundraised and donated masks and hand sanitisers to the elderly in Hong Kong

## MEMBERS



**Xin Ittipakorn**  
Leader, activity coordinator



**Katherine Happold**  
Graphic designer



**Emily Zhong**  
Creative director



**Julianne Leung**  
Public relations manager



**Alice Boyle**  
Head of research



**Andrea Tang**  
Social media manager

# PROJECT TIMELINE

## SEPTEMBER 2020

Started brainstorming project ideas

## NOVEMBER 2020

Came up with 3 project ideas:  
1. Recycling hotel toiletries and soap  
2. Creating a water filter  
3. Setting up hotlines in countries with little mental health support

## DECEMBER 2020

Researched into those ideas and eliminated them based on its practicality and scale of impact.

## JANUARY 2021

We were not able to go back to school so we changed our project idea to creating COVID-19 handbooks and raising awareness for issues surrounding COVID-19.

## FEBRUARY 2021

Completed our research on the impacts of COVID-19. Started our instagram account and created our first draft of our handbook.

## MARCH 2021

Witnessed the effects of COVID-19 in our home cities and immediately acted on it by distributing essential care packages in Thailand and COVID-19 care packages in Hong Kong. Started gslconnect.

## APRIL 2021

Finalised COVID-19 handbook and translated it into Chinese and Thai. Distributed digital and physical copies to schools, temples, churches, nursing homes.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTION

After witnessing the impacts COVID-19 had on our local communities, especially on low household incomes and elderly who have a lack of resources, we decided it was important to take immediate action. We formed a goal to help alleviate the shortage of essential goods and protective gear.

We created a fundraiser called Road to 500 km, where two members living in Hong Kong cycled and ran 500 km over the course of one month. Members living elsewhere helped by setting up the fundraiser and advertising it. We successfully raised over 2,600 pounds and purchased 1000 boxes of masks and 800 bottles of hand sanitisers. These were delivered to the Hong Kong Women Foundation Ho Kwok Pui-Chun Social Centre for the Elderly, who support and provide social services to the elderly.

A member in Bangkok packed and delivered essential care packages to Prachacuen community and helped over 80 households in total. The care packages included rice, snacks, fish oil, toothbrush and toothpaste, reusable fabric masks and canned sardines.

## IMPACTS

- COVID-19 handbook reached 5000+ people
  - In Cheltenham - Lillian Faithfull Care, Homespa House, Airthrie School, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Christchurch
  - Internationally - Canadian International School Hong Kong, Heep Yunn School Hong Kong, Chinese International School Hong Kong, Thai Temples
- Care packages distributed to 500+ Thailand citizens
- Face masks and hand sanitisers distributed to 800+ elderly in Hong Kong
- Involved students from both UK and Thailand in creating a cover for handbook
  - A variety of covers created to display different perspectives people have on COVID-19
- World Earth Day banner
  - 400+ students and 100+ faculty signed to show their support for protecting the environment
  - Framed and displayed in school

## SETBACKS

The biggest challenge we faced during this project was the unexpected third UK lockdown which meant we had to work together while we were spread all over different countries. We didn't have any interaction with each other for 4 months so we weren't able to carry out our original plan of recycling hotel toiletries as a group. We quickly adapted and came up with another project idea that could be worked on virtually: creating a COVID-19 handbook guide and using social media to raise awareness for issues related to COVID-19.

Another obstacle we faced was finding a time that worked with everyone's time zones. We overcame this by creating a time schedule where we would have weekly online meetings. In addition, we set deadlines to ensure we were making progress over the weeks.

At the beginning of the project, we struggled with a lack of communication. This caused confusion and reduced productivity. We realised the significance of updating each other whenever we finished a task and giving constructive feedback on each other's work.

## WHAT WE GAINED

- Teamwork and communication skills being online for most of the project
- Insight into an array of COVID-19 impacts
- How to manage social media accounts to optimise its reach and impact
- Experience working in close coordination with members of our school's leadership team and staff through coordinating world earth day
- Exposure to working and contacting schools, charities and NGOs
- Patience and cooperation with each other
- Learned how to immediately take action and advocate in our home cities

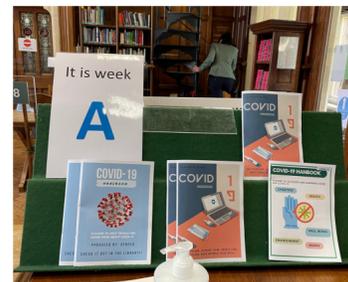
## GALLERY



Making handbooks



Online meeting



Handbooks displayed in school library



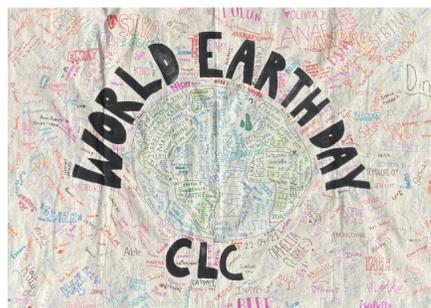
Peers wearing green on World Earth Day



Packaging hand sanitisers



Teacher signing



World Earth Day banner



Sending care packages



Brainstorming ideas



Distribute COVID-19 handbooks to nursing home