

# Congratulations On Passing Your Eco-Schools Green Flag!

Fantastic work!

We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at Thomas Gainsborough School have been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag.

We reviewed your application and noted the following:

We like your approach to selecting the Eco-Committee members by allowing pupils to voluntarily sign up to become a member. It is great that the pupils are responsible for keeping a record of meetings as this approach doubtless helps them to have a sense of ownership, responsibility and of purpose.

This considered approach demonstrates a creative and inclusive approach to the programme. It is great that you have encouraged the students to take ownership of the project and that you are promoting educational values in this way! We also love how the Eco-Committee members are so proactive in communicating with the rest of the school and external stakeholders. For example you use morning registration, communal areas and notice boards.

You also make use of social media and your school magazine to engage the wider public and external stakeholders. Your overall approach is really informing and involving and shows how valued and embedded the Eco-Schools programme is in your school. It was really great to read how your Environmental Review provided the basis for the projects in your Action Plan. It is great that your review process generated ideas and awareness for changes that you could make, as this demonstrates a reflective and considered approach to your Eco-Schools work.

These are great skills that we could all learn from! You've clearly taken efforts to connect your biodiversity, marine and waste projects happening across the school and embedding work into curriculum and everyday school life in a really impactful way. This is really inspiring and clever. Your Action Plan is impressive!

The approach is detailed and the actions that you planned out were really SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Bound). The fact you clearly take these issues so seriously is important as it helps to achieve progress and empower and recognise your Eco-Committee.

It was also great to see accountability and monitoring and evaluation clearly marked in your Action Plan and that you identify everything in such detail. Excellent work! Your curriculum links were really clear and embedded. For example, your eco topics are covered using a cross-curricular approach in Spanish, Geography, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics lessons. You mix theory work with practical kinaesthetic learning activities whereby students learn by doing. This kind of pedagogical work encourages pupils to make links between theory and the real world, and hopefully approach topics in a fresh and relevant way, and is a great way to encourage children to take ownership of environmental issues.

You've also clearly looked both internally and externally and engaged with different stakeholders, including your work with the RSPB to ask them to help you inform young people about the importance of biodiversity. We love that you have raised so much money for charities including through a non-uniform day. You have also liaised with local garden centres for support with planting trees to improve biodiversity at your school! This kind of work is an excellent example of the collaborative approach we will all need to adopt to help our environment - your application made us feel really positive for the future! Your achievements this year have been wonderful.

For example, to improve biodiversity you have created semi-mow zones, rewilding mounds and have sown wildflower seeds. It is wonderful to hear that trees have been planted around the school grounds and that as a school have stopped the use of vending machines, and that you have made a pledge to not use things such as glitter or to release balloons. You also collected over 5000 batteries to save them from landfill with the Big Battery Hunt! This all truly makes the Eco-Schools initiative an integral part of your school life! Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do. You should all be very proud of your amazing work and the great application you have submitted. You've really earned your Green Flag Bronze Award accreditation! Well done everyone!

As always THANK YOU very much for your hard work, we are so proud of all our schools and the collective achievements they have made to protect our planet for future generations. We look forward to working with Thomas Gainsborough School again next academic year to help you expand on your eco-actions and successes of this year.

Have a great summer break,

***The Eco-Schools Team***

July 2022