



The Termly Newsletter that is making the planet better for all of us at QEHS and the wider community.

This Term's Theme: Litter

Issue 1 Summer 2007

'A Vision From the Head' by *Omar Zorob 9J*

On the 26th of June, I interviewed Mr.Day. The questions were simple, and they all reflected the Environment.

I asked him how important the environment was to the school. He said, "The environment isn't just important to the school but to every one that inhabits this earth. If we do not change soon we will be faced with a disaster, if not a catastrophe. Recently we have seen examples of the environment changing, for example the heat waves in the Mediterranean and of course the tragedies of the flooding in the Midlands."

The new eco-committee was strengthened a few months ago. Its role is to improve the school's environment. I asked Mr.Day why the eco-committee is important to the school. He answered, "The eco-committee is very important because it gives awareness about how the environment can be improved and also takes action to improve the environment, especially the school's. All the ideas are brought by you the pupils, not by teachers or members of staff. So to cut the answer short, the eco committee is very important.

" My family and I recycle as much as we can, and we also compost leaves, dead plants and grass cuttings. I make a weekly trip to the recycle centre. I've recently fitted a water butt and we use the stored rain to water the plants. I have a hybrid car, it runs on electricity and petrol. It is important for everyone to do something, because every thing makes a difference."

WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

by *Mr. P. Lewis*



Eco-committee members collected over 2300 pieces of rubbish in one day.

On the 23rd May hard working volunteers completed a very comprehensive audit of the litter in the upper and lower campuses of QEHS. Nearly 19 kilograms of recorded waste were collected, over 50% of which was recyclable material. This level of litter was very disappointing when you consider the number of bins that are around both campuses. The majority of pupils are respecting the school environment for the rest of us that work here.

Greater awareness, through lessons and whole school initiatives is the answer. One such solution has been provided by the Design and Technology Department. They have supplied bins for recyclable plastic bottles and cans; (ranked 3rd and 5th most dropped litter) that have been located in both campus canteens. Pupils are now encouraged to sort and understand the benefits of recycling this type of waste. For example, recycled plastic can be turned into outdoor furniture or fleeced clothing. Further trips are planned to the local recycling centre to encourage the pupils to drop less and recycle more. This crucial message must also be reinforced at home.

'Proposed New Cycle Track' by Max Boothby 8E

Plans have been drawn up at school with Connect2 for a new cycle track running from the Carmarthen Heritage Centre all the way to the new QEHS building.

Connect2 develops cycle paths and footways and is competing for a lottery grant of £50m to fund this track and other similar cycle paths. If it is successful QEHS will have its own designated cycle track that will make cycling to school not only safer, but more enjoyable. The proposed track is shorter than existing routes and would avoid congestion at the bottom of Monument Hill. It would run across grassland, along the river, behind the council offices before cutting over the railway bridge taking cyclists directly to the north pick-up point at QEHS. Even for the occasional cyclist it's got to be a good thing.

See the plans for yourself. Visit : www.sustransconnect2.org.uk or call 0845 058 13 73. The more people who log on, the more chance Connect2 will win its bid for lottery funds. Just by logging on everyone can support the project. Do it at breaktime, do it at lunchtime, or when you get home. We can all make this cycle track happen.

Some Amazing Facts from the Year 10 Star Group

1. By recycling 1 ton of paper we save 17 trees.
2. One mature leafy tree produces enough oxygen for 10 people to breath in one year.
3. Trees clean air intercepting air born particles and absorbing carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.



'Ecoschool for Real' by Brendan & Becky Year 11

At the moment it might look like a random collection of steel girders, but rest assured, the new school shall be environmentally friendly. On the roof of the building, water shall be caught and channelled into a tank and used for flushing the toilets, saving huge amounts of mains water. In the furthest block, there will be a biomass boiler. This burns wood pellets and will heat the school's hot water, saving electricity. In addition, there shall be push-taps to ensure no water is wasted. The windows in the new school will be manual and will also open automatically when a temperature increase is detected as this would save on air conditioning. In every room of the new school, there will be movement light sensors, which will turn on automatically, and likewise, turn off when the room is empty. After our visit to the new school we shall proceed to watch the progress with interest.

'Duke of Edinburgh and Ecoschools in Partnership' by Mr. R. Evans

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at QEHS is committed to improving the natural environment at school and that of the community in Carmarthenshire.

For the past two years, the 'Coastcare Q.E.' Group have been attending Llansteffan Beach on a weekly basis as part of the Award Service Section. The D of E Award Group is fully committed to developing the eco-school initiatives at QEHS and has developed strong links with the Eco-school committee. It is an area that continues to gather momentum for the success of QEHS. Planting boxes have been constructed and delivered to a local primary school, for use in creating a natural 'green' environment for the pupils.

This aspect of school life was highlighted in the joint conservation initiative, which took place on the 25th May 2007. Pupils from the D of E Award and the Eco-school Council attended Llansteffan Beach to engage in a beach clean and sustainable conservation measures for the wider community. Future projects include conservation activities at Llansteffan Woods and Castle and the construction of planting boxes for local primary schools.

'Environmental Campaigners need your help' by Mr. Paul Lewis

All members of the eco-committee will be working hard over the summer holidays to raise sponsors for environmental projects for a more sustainable QEHS. Reducing the effects of global warming and increasing species biodiversity are just two of the main areas of focus. We are also committed to becoming global citizens and improving the imbalances that exist around our planet.

In the Autumn Term we are planning to complete a number of projects, which include sponsoring a child in a developing country, helping endangered species such as the albatross, sponsoring an acre of South American rainforest and purchasing a bat detector to study our local bat population. All of these projects will require substantial funds, so we asking for your assistance in helping us raise the necessary money. If parents and friends in the community of Carmarthen would kindly dig deep into their pockets and sponsor a member then we would gladly embark on a one-day litter pick of Llansteffan beach in September.

Summer/Autumn Events

1. *East Carmarthenshire Group Wildlife Trust.* Sunday 12th August, **Annual Insect Hunt** with Phil Ward, Wildlife Trust Officer. Meet Talley Abbey 2pm.

2. *Llanelli Naturalists.* Saturday 18th August. **Tywyn Burrows.** Extensive and diverse coastal habitats with outstanding flora. Leader Richard Pryce. Meet at the car park off factory road on the left before the Pembrey Country Park barrier. SN415005 at 2.00pm.

3. *Llanelli Naturalists.* Sunday 14th October. **Fungus Foray** led by Phil Jones. Welsh Wetland Centre, Penclacwydd. Meet at the visitor centre. 2.00pm (Entrance Charge).