

Melbourn Village College Eco Group

The MVC Eco Group has been going from strength to strength over the last two years and we have been delighted with the level of pupil engagement.

Back in 2020 we were fortunate to be able to install seven new water fountains with bottle refilling facilities around school, with the aim of reducing single use plastic by refilling water bottles. This is the result of generous funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon Emissions Community Grant.

In March, pupils had an online talk about recycling in South Cambridgeshire from Birgitta Laurent, the recycling co-ordinator for the area. They learnt about what happens to the waste from our blue, black and green bins when it arrives at the Amey Waste management park at Waterbeach. Inspired by this, the EcoGroup

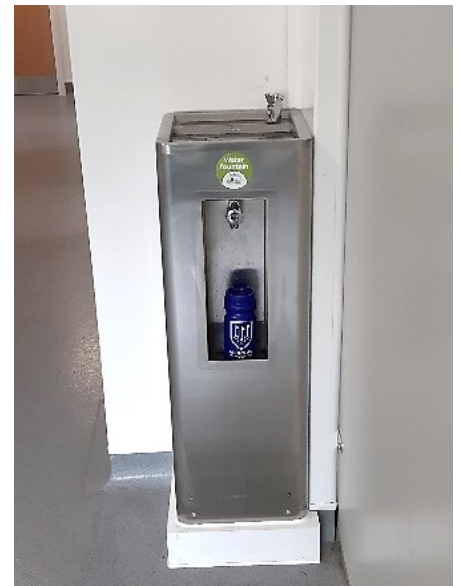


established recycling points for empty crisp packets, used pens and board markers, to send off for recycling through [TerraCycle](#) who specialise in hard-to-recycle waste products.

In April, nine pupils from Year 7 took part in Earth Day 2021, joining other schools internationally in an online activity named 'Protect the earth, our common homeland'. This event was supported by Natural Sciences Sector Coordinator of UNESCO with the Congratulation Speech by Mr Plea. The aim of this online activity is to help pupils to raise environmental awareness with an international perspective. There were around 10 schools from different countries such as China, Philippines, Indonesia, Finland, Canada, etc. taking part. MVC was the only UK school to join the live discussion. Our pupils did a presentation covering two topics:

- The effect of the pandemic on pupils in the UK
- Environmental awareness and environmental protection activities in the UK

Pupils made the following comments: 'This event helps us to learn about environmental awareness.' 'It has a good message that people are ruining the world. It needs to be saved before it is too late.' We are very proud of our pupils for researching their presentation and sharing their views with the world.



The next focus for the Eco Group was 'greening-up' the school by adding some pot plants inside and some pollinator-friendly plants outside. Following a request, we were delighted to receive donations of plants from friends and parents. Pupils spent their lunchtimes repotting and propagating. After school, they did some planting around the school grounds, ably assisted by Mrs Neville and other members of staff.



Other changes that the Eco Group have initiated include 'tweaking' the grass cutting plan around school to do our bit to help insects and wildlife. The hedge boundary is being left to grow long. The charity [Bug Life](#) has created a map of B-Lines which are wildlife corridors specifically for pollinators. Allowing wildflowers and grass to grow anywhere helps, but the charity aims to focus on creating corridors of pollinating plants to help insects move from one area to another more easily. It turns out that Melbourn Village College is on one of these B-Lines!



Going forward the Eco Group has lots in the pipeline. Discussions are underway to look at how we might be able to introduce Meat-free Mondays in the canteen, and a 'wildflower meadow' has been planted in an area at the edge of the field. We look forward to enjoying this when it comes into flower next year. There are also plans to set up an Eco Committee (with at least one member from each year group) to work towards an EcoSchool Green Flag Award for Melbourn VC.