

Stage 2 Raising Awareness

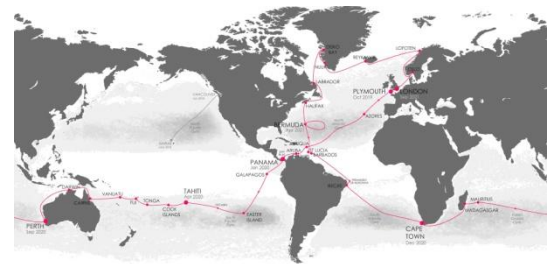
In 2018 year 8 students were the first to study a topic in Geography which included plastic pollution in the oceans. The Green Team was founded by students who wanted to take action. Since then school wide efforts have been made to raise awareness of the issues linked to plastic waste.

STEP 1/3: INFORM AND FEEDBACK

Geography Curriculum

Since 2018 the Geography department has continued to embed the issue of plastic waste into the curriculum in years 7, 8 and 9.

Year 7 - Follow the journey of the Exxpedition around the world as they endeavour to monitor plastic in our oceans as part of a celebration of female exploration and making a difference.



<https://exxpedition.com/>

Year 8 - Study a topic of water and people. This includes lessons on ocean plastic. They watch the BBC documentary on ocean plastic and then create a reduced plastic/plastic free shopping list from their own research and posters explaining the impacts of plastic on the oceans.

<http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Drowning%20in%20Plastic>



Plastic free Shopping List – Matilda
Research and find examples of plastic free or reduced plastic products and where you can get them from. For each category find two more examples.

Item	Plastic free or Reduced plastic	Price £	Available from where? Website address or shop name	I will try this - I have tried this -
Toothbrush	Reduced plastic	£3.99	Zero waste club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wet wipes	Plastic free	£15.99	Wet ones uk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cotton buds	Plastic free	£4.99	Zero waste club	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toothpaste	Plastic free	£2.50	Colgate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make up wipes	Plastic free	£3.65	Simple	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tea bags	Reduced plastic	£3.49	Tesco	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dish cloth	Plastic free	£5.99	Evoxibe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drink bottle	Reduced plastic	£24.90	Waterdrop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch box	Reduced plastic	£25	Peacewiththewild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rubbish bags				<input type="checkbox"/>
Pens	Reduced plastic	£1	Peacewiththewild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pencil case	Plastic free	£6.90	Amazon	<input type="checkbox"/>
School bag	Reduced plastic	£33	Kula	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trainers	Reduced plastic	£185	Roscomar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socks	Plastic free	£6.99	Dr poppin off	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping bags	Plastic free	£35	Turtle bags	<input type="checkbox"/>

Year 9 - Have just studied a new topic on sustainable fashion and the impacts of plastic and synthetic material. The department is in the process of developing a research and design assignment for year 9 this term.

Task: Design a more sustainable school uniform for Chatham Grammar school.



You will need to:

- Research the types of materials that can be used in order to create sustainable school uniform.
- Research whether your clothes can be made in a more sustainable way (i.e., from recycled clothing or from a more ethically friendly manner).
- Write a brief explanation as to why you have chosen to use these methods.

Green week

In October 2019 and October 2020 the Green Team have hosted two 'Green weeks'. These included assemblies raising awareness of environmental issues such as single use plastics. In 2019 some of the money (£292.94) raised by having a non-school uniform day went to a local branch of surfers against sewage. The team also hosted a guest speaker from the charity at the end of the week.



Plastic Free Medway

- The money raised from our Eco Week tag day will be mostly donated to Plastic Free Medway!
- They are a community run group who are trying to reduce single-use plastics and avoid plastic pollution within the Medway towns.
- They organise local clean ups and award businesses with certificates for reducing their plastic pollution.



Posters and displays

Since the foundation of the Green Team the students have maintained a diligent effort to produce posters and displays around the school raising awareness of plastic waste issues. Their main display includes photographs taken by team members who have been out on litter surveys.





Other posters selected and created by students are in every corridor and classroom around the school, such as the one here explaining the life cycle of plastic waste and suggestions for how we can reduce our need of single use plastic.

MYC Conference

In October 2019 some students attended the Medway Youth conference. Although the focus was on Climate change there were elements of the conference which highlighted the danger of plastic waste. Participants were given a reusable straw in order to demonstrate how simple we can reduce single use plastic.

On Wednesday 20th of October 2019 nine members of the Green team attended the Medway Youth Council conference. They undertook the opportunity to work with students from other schools, local councillors, project leaders and national representatives to discuss issues around "Climate change - a real threat to our future!"

The team came away with a renewed passion to tackle this global issue and several ideas of what we can all do.

STEP 2: AUDIT

Event	Number of students
Year 7 parents' evening	180
Year 8 parents' evening	180
Year 9 parents' evening	130
Year 10 parents' evening	130
Year 11 parents' evening	100
Year 12 parents' evening	100
Year 13 parents' evening	100
Total	920
Year 7 open days	500+
GCSE options evening	130+
6 th form open evening	200+
Overall Total	1750+

One of the first plastic products which the Green Team discussed and looked into was the use of polystyrene and plastic cups. At any given parents' evening up to 180 students/parents could attend the school and potentially use a single use cup. The numbers indicated a

potential use of several thousand cups per year.

Another area discussed by the Green Team was the use of plastic in the school canteen (Lime Lounge). Approximately half of students had school dinners and used plastic cutlery.

Students per day	Students per week (x5)	Students per year (X40)
425	2125	85000

Other students bought and brought in sandwiches which came in packaging that contained single use plastic.

Lastly the Green Team discussed how more students should be encouraged to use a reusable water bottle as opposed to single use plastic bottles. These could then be refilled at water stations around the school, which already existed. In total the school has over 850 students and this would lead to a significant decrease in single use plastic.

STEP 3: FEEDBACK

Whole school survey

As part of the Green Team's efforts a whole school survey was conducted at the start of this year to assess how aware students were of environmental issues which included plastic waste and how aware they are of the strategies already in place.

6. How plastic free is our school?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

234

Responses

★★★★☆

2.76 Average Rating

7. How aware are you of the school's efforts to become more environmentally friendly?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

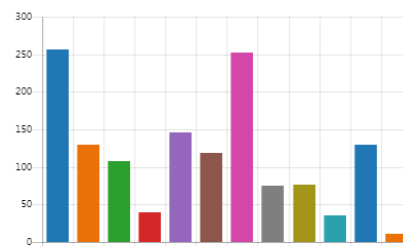
Very aware	88
Somewhat aware	206
Unaware	26



8. Tick any of the following strategies you are already aware the school has in place.

[More Details](#)

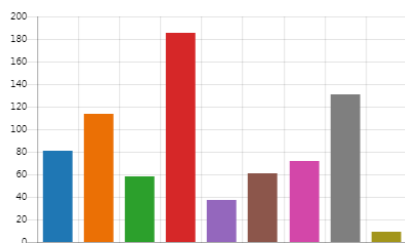
Wooden cutlery in the canteen	256
Encouraging reusable bottles ...	130
Turn computers and light off ...	108
Collecting old pens for recycli...	39
Terracylce bins for foil crisp pa...	146
Terracylce bins for chocolate wr...	119
Green recycling bins in every c...	252
Compostable food containers ...	75
Air monitoring station manag...	76
Meat free Mondays in the can...	35
Terracylce bins for crisp pots (...)	129
Other	11



9. Which of the following changes will you choose to make? - Make one change today!

[More Details](#)

To buy plastic free teabags an...	81
To buy food in recyclable or c...	114
To collect crisp packets at ho...	58
Buy a water bottle to avoid sin...	185
To collect chocolate wrappers ...	37
Go meat free on a Monday	61
Sponsor a tree in November a...	72
To walk or take public transpo...	131
Other	9



10. Which of the following strategies should the school focus on this year? (choose one)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Working towards being plastic...	90
Increasing our efforts to recycl...	54
Greening up the school (plant ...)	142
Other	22



Feedback was sustained through ongoing 'Green weeks', assemblies, posters and displays as outlined above. As this has been an ongoing process the sequence of initiatives has not followed the outline as per the kids against plastic website.