



Boswells first Eco Week

As you may have heard, last week (20th-24th January) was Boswells' very first Eco-Week. Eco-Week was an idea created by two sixth formers, and along with my role as Environmental Prefect, we made a sterling success of it. Throughout the course of the week we had different activities around the school to raise both awareness and money. In order to raise money, we ran several cake sales during break and lunch times and had a non-uniform day on Friday. All of the money raised is being split, with 50% being donated to the recovery and prevention efforts in Australia as a result of the bushfires, and 50% being donated to the school's garden project- planning to transform the old ABL site into a garden. In addition to raising money, we ran litter picks throughout break and lunch times, and received help from so many volunteer students.

On behalf of the Eco-council we thank you for all your support in making Boswells' more environmentally conscious.

With thanks from Environmental Prefect Ethan Lau



In This Issue

Boswells first Eco Week

The importance of being environmentally conscious

Famous environmentalists

Extinction Rebellion

Recommended environmental books

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- Ethan Lau
- Mr. Reed
- Grace Asher

The importance of being environmentally conscious

Environmental consciousness has experienced a huge boost in recent times due in large part to the actions of individuals such as Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg and others. Organisations like Greenpeace have been a presence in the public mind for much longer than they have been welcomed, but now local organisations and committed individuals are raising the voices of the public more than I have ever experienced before.

Climate change is now an accepted reality and its consequences are wide-reaching, unexpected, and very complicated. For this last reason, it is easier to attribute simpler causes to disasters like the bushfires in Australia. Blaming arson or God externalises the cause and removes any agency from ourselves. The simple fact is that we are all responsible. Ours is a collective responsibility. You and I in Essex are as much responsible for the fires in Australia as are the Australians. Did you burn fossil fuels? Did you buy products or services from those who did? What about products or services from those who have engaged in large-scale agricultural deforestation?

It is hard to point the finger at oneself, but we must. The time is now to ask 'what could I do differently?' The fires are not the only disaster in progress. What about the millions of species under threat of extinction? Whether due to climate change or litter, these are causes we have an influence on. I encourage you all to try and understand your influence, and make it a positive one. We can do better, and we must.

Article by Mr. Reed

Science teacher and Eco-Coordinator

News this week

It was announced this week that Tesco would be taking further steps to reduce their plastic use. They have declared that they will be replacing multipack plastic wrap for multi-buy tins, a move that would see 350 tonnes of plastic no longer entering the environment.

This decision has been welcomed by environmental group Greenpeace who promote the reduction of 'pointless plastic'.



Famous environmentalists

During Eco-Week, we believe it is important to celebrate the individuals who work hard to protect our environment.

At age 15, Greta Thunberg started protesting outside the Swedish parliament for stronger action against climate change. She has since become the face for climate change activists, hosting a number of school strikes and speaking at the United Nations Conventions in New York and Madrid. In 2019, Thunberg became the youngest individual to be named Time magazine's Person of the Year, and was included in their list of top 100 most influential people.

"We deserve a safe future. And we demand a safe future. Is that really too much to ask?" - Greta Thunberg at the Global Climate Change Strike, New York, 20 September 2019

Leonardo DiCaprio is one of the most active celebrities in the climate change movement and, in 1998, established the non-profit Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation which is devoted to promoting environmental awareness. This foundation focuses on global warming, preserving biodiversity, and supporting renewable energy production. Most notably, DiCaprio's foundation donated \$100 million in December 2018 to fight climate change and \$15.6 million to protecting wildlife and the rights of Native Americans. Another one of DiCaprio's foundations, Earth Alliance, has recently donated \$3 million to fight the Australian wildfires.

"You are the last, best hope of Earth. We ask you to protect it. Or we, and all living things we cherish, are history." - DiCaprio at the United Nations Climate Summit, New York, 22 April 2016

Article by Hannah Bassom



Recommended environmental books

How to give up plastic– Will McCallum the head of oceans at Greenpeace discusses the steps we can take to reduce and cease plastic use.

The Uninhabitable Earth– David Wallace-Wells manages to sum up the past, present and future stages of our planet's environmental crisis in just 200 pages.

Are we smart enough to know how smart animals are?– Frans de Waal explores the learning tools we share with the rest of the animal kingdom and evaluates research into the problem-solving abilities of animals.

Animal Liberation– Peter Singer radically explores the systematic oppression and disregard for non-human life. Regarded as the classic and most iconic animal rights book.

Recommendations from Earth Day and Bustle

Eco Council Aims

Since the Eco Council was implemented by Mr. Reed, it has been focused on raising awareness about environmental issues both locally and globally. One of our main aims is to make sure that the school is aware of how they can make our local environment more eco-friendly. We look at important issues such as recycling and effective food waste. A study conducted last year, found that 55.7% of students in the UK do not think that people can cause much harm to the environment. Eco Council wants to tackle this misconception - starting with how we can all be more environmentally conscious, leading towards an increased awareness with long-term global benefits.

We created Eco Week to highlight the importance of the Eco Council. We made sure that nearly all departments in the school were involved in organising class activities –focused on bringing environmentally conscious choices to the forefront of the student's minds. In tutors we conducted a Climate Change Quiz with an average score of 6/12; it is vital that this level of awareness is increased to almost 12/12 for us to make an effective difference.

The work done during Eco Week is a demonstration of how important and successful the Eco Council is in the school. It has also shown us what the next step should be in our effort to make both Boswells and the local community an environmentally friendly place.

Article by Grace Asher

