

# London Sustainable Schools Forum

March 2009

Dear Forum member,

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> London Sustainable Schools Forum E-Bulletin!

## LSSF Learning Seminars December 2008 – February 2009

Thanks to all of those schools who have taken part in our recent Learning Seminar Series, which have been delivered by SEEd (Sustainability and Environmental Education). We are delighted that delegates found the smaller, focussed sessions very useful for their own action planning. Delegates fed back that it 'gave people the opportunity to discuss and share ideas with others, including school colleagues' and provided 'time to think about how to move forward and plan next move in school'. We will be sharing reports of each of the seminars – focussing on Every Child's Future Matters, Secondary Schools, and Campus respectively – on the webpage soon. Please visit:

[http://www.gos.gov.uk/gol/Environment\\_rural/Sustainable\\_schools](http://www.gos.gov.uk/gol/Environment_rural/Sustainable_schools) .

## 'Making Connections' LSSF event 13<sup>th</sup> March, National Maritime Museum

It was fantastic to experience the enthusiasm and energy in the room at the National Maritime Museum on 13th March, where over 100 Forum members got together for the 6<sup>th</sup> large LSSF event. Delegates were inspired by our speakers on the day, particularly David Gardner from QCA who was launching the new secondary curriculum guidance on Cross-Curricular Dimensions and the brand new publication Sustainable Development in Action: A curriculum planning guide for schools; and also by a couple of superb and motivating We Are What We Do Young Speakers, who drew the day to a close in style!

We also had fantastic breakout sessions running throughout the day, across the 8 Doorways of the National Framework and the 3C's of Campus, Curriculum and Community. Thanks to everyone who got involved and participated at all levels. I have said it before but will say it again – the Forum members are what make it such a vibrant and dynamic exchange of ideas and energy, so keep up the good work!

As above with the Learning Seminars, a report of the day will be available on the website, and also circulated to Forum members shortly.

## Feedback

If you have any suggestions or contributions for a future Bulletin, please do get in touch – you can email [sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!



Martin Crabbe, Head of Sustainable Geography, Glebe School  
Deputy Chair of London Sustainable Schools Forum

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### Sustainable Schools News

- **Why we should bring the outside world into the school grounds** (24<sup>th</sup> March)

Sunny spring weather turns everyone's thoughts to spending more time outdoors - and youngsters are known to benefit from time spent outside the confines of the classroom.

According to Every Experience Matters, a report backed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and commissioned by the charity Farming and Countryside Education (Face), children who learn outside the classroom reach higher levels of knowledge and skills, boost their physical health and motor skills, socialise better, demonstrate improved attention spans, and enjoy better mental health. Outside learning also helps them to understand and adapt their behaviour and question their values.

But this does not have to mean farm visits, expensive skiing trips and cultural city breaks. One of the biggest resources lies outside the classroom door - the school's own grounds.

A playground may be the only place where a child plays outdoors and the grounds may provide their only opportunity to learn about wildlife or how to grow their own food.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/mar/24/governor>

- **London Borough of Havering to have its own walking and cycling greenway**

Communities across the nation - including people in the London Borough of Havering - voted in force for Sustrans' Connect2 to win the TV vote to bring £50million from the Big Lottery Fund to create 79 walking and cycling networks for everyday journeys across the UK.

Today, the million-pound Connect2 scheme to enable walkers and cyclists to travel along a tranquil riverside greenway from the M25 in the north, to the Thames, without having to negotiate the busy A127, is a step closer as sustainable transport charity Sustrans and its Connect2 partners at the London Borough of Havering sign the paperwork that will guide the development for the coming years.

<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp?sID=1237553930547>

- **World Water Day!** (22<sup>nd</sup> March)

World Water Day is an international day of observance and action to draw attention to the plight of the more than 1 billion people world wide that lack access to clean, safe drinking water. Celebrated since 1993, World Water Day was designated in 1992 when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution. With each passing year, the observance has grown larger and stronger.

One of the supporting organisations is Water Aid. WaterAid is an international charity whose mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Visit Water Aid's Learn Zone for ideas and resources that you can carry out in school: [http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn\\_zone/default.asp](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/default.asp) .

- **The Age of Stupid launched** (15<sup>th</sup> March)

The Age of Stupid is a powerful new 90-minute film about climate change, set in the future, which had its world premiere in London on 15<sup>th</sup> March and will be in UK cinemas from 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite (In The Name of the Father, Brassed Off) stars as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking back at “archive” footage from 2007 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?

Read more about the film and how you can organise your own screening: [www.ageofstupid.net](http://www.ageofstupid.net)

- **Winning London Priority Parks announced** (4<sup>th</sup> March)

The Help a London Park scheme has been developed as part of the Mayor of London's initiative to clean up and improve London's rundown green spaces.

The scheme will improve ten parks across London, chosen by Londoners.

The grant winners have now been announced – visit the following link for the results and the work that the grants will contribute towards: <http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote/>

- **Eco-Schools for Early Years** (March)

'Eco-Schools for Early Years' has been developed to meet the needs of younger children by creating separate award criteria, new guidance and resources aimed specifically at the 0 to 5 years age group.

It is hoped that the new guidance, which is supported by Rupert Bear, will help more children's centres, nurseries, Sure Start centres and playgroups reach Green Flag status.

The Eco-Schools website now includes a separate section which is dedicated to early years. From here centres will have access to modified criteria, advice and tips on how to set up an action team and carry out an environmental review along with a range of resources including activity sheets and comic strips. The guidance notes also offer activity ideas for each of the nine Eco-Schools topics and demonstrate how these can link up to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS).

To view the Early Years section of the website follow this link <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/early-years/> or click on the Rupert Bear logo on the homepage.

- **The Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge – now being awarded** (February)

The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge provides for the first time a national accreditation combining the essential elements of provision – learning and safety – into one easily recognisable and trusted Quality Badge for all types of Learning Outside the Classroom provider organisations.

The Quality Badge is for all organisations and venues that provide learning outside the classroom experiences for children and young people aged 0-19, where they are: offering high quality teaching and learning experiences; and safe (i.e. managing risk effectively).

Local authorities, other employers, the education workforce and parents will be able to recognise and have confidence in the Quality Badge scheme.

The LOtC Quality Badge scheme was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 and the first Quality Badges are now being awarded. Visit the link below to search for a venue or organisation near you.

<http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/home>

- **Teen ambassadors question the party leaders on the Global Campaign for Education** (27<sup>th</sup> January)

Lily King-Taylor, 16, and Jenade Sharma, 15, ambassadors for the Global Campaign for Education, interview leaders of all three main British political parties.

For more information on the campaign, visit [www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/video/2009/jan/27/global-campaign-for-education>

- **Right to be heard** (23<sup>rd</sup> January)

By any standards, the comments from the official observer are pretty positive. There was a good variation in teaching methods, a lot of interaction, a comfortable learning environment and references to previous lessons showed how it all linked together. All in all, a well-structured lesson conducted at a challenging pace and with clear objectives. It's the sort of feedback that many teachers would be happy to hear. But does the fact the observer in this case is 16 years old make it any less valid, or any more?

Nikul Kotecha, the Year 12 student in question, is one of more than 100 pupils at Beauchamp College, a 14-19 school in Leicester, who have been trained in lesson observation. The observations are based on Ofsted's practice, and today Nikul is sitting in on a Year 12 geography class as part of one of the most comprehensive exercises of its kind yet undertaken in the UK.

The school has termed it Insted, a student equivalent of Ofsted, and students will observe about 200 lessons across all departments, pulling their findings together in a report to be published next month.

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6007557>

- **The neighbourhood effect** (20<sup>th</sup> January)

Walking past boarded-up houses and litter on the way to school can have a devastating effect on children's behaviour and exam results, says a new study.

Published today, exclusively in Education Guardian, is a study that, for the first time, seeks to establish whether there are links between a neighbourhood's physical decline and pupil behaviour, truancy, teacher morale and a school's ability to deliver exam results.

One More Broken Window: The Impact of the Physical Environment on Schools was written and researched by Perpetuity Group, a Leicester-based research and consultancy firm, for the Nasuwt teaching union.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/jan/20/pupil-behaviour-school-environment>

## **Dates for your Diary.... March - May 2009**

### **MARCH**

- **WWF's Earth Hour for schools**

Sign up to WWF's Earth Hour and join schools across the UK showing world leaders that you care about people, wildlife and the planet and want them to take action to tackle climate change.

Schools have an important role to play in championing action on climate change. It's the young people in our schools today who will live through the worst – or best – effects of the action we take now on climate change. And today's students will be tomorrow's citizens and decision-makers: we need to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to make wise choices about the future of our planet.

Please register your school's support for WWF's Earth Hour.

WWF is producing a range of resources, including:

- background information for teachers about climate change
- a film: WWF's Earth Hour 2009
- WWF's Earth Hour toolkit for schools, which contains: an assembly outline/introductory activity with accompanying PowerPoint ideas for a 60-minute 'Hour for the Earth' activity other activities, challenges and games.

For more info visit: [http://www.wwf.org.uk/how\\_you\\_can\\_help/earthhour/schools/](http://www.wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/earthhour/schools/)

APRIL

- **Water Efficiency Awards 2009: call for nominations**

Water Efficiency is essential for protecting the environment, saving money and conserving our natural resources. We want to recognise the achievements of organisations and companies that have worked to save water.

There are three categories for entries:

SAVE - recognising practical measures that help people save money and water

SHOUT - celebrating campaigns that change the way people use water

SOLVE - acknowledging smart solutions for sustainable water use.

The biannual Water Efficiency Awards celebrate and share best practice and raise awareness of the importance of water efficiency within business and industry. They are a chance to publicly demonstrate commitment to the environment.

Find out more and register your nomination at: <http://www.water-efficiency-awards.org.uk/index.php> .  
Entries close on **17<sup>th</sup> April 2009**.

MAY

- **Deadline for Tree Council – Trees for Schools Fund grants**

This grant is open to all schools within the United Kingdom with pupils aged sixteen or under.

If you're interested in applying for a grant to plant fruit trees, please have a look at the revised guidelines in relation to the funding of fruit trees.

To apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/23> . The closing date for applications is **31st May**.

- **Walk to School Week 2009: 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Walk to School Week 2009 is to be held on 18-22nd May, a date that is rapidly approaching. You can order tailor made resources to support your week now until **27th March**.

The theme this year is "Walk 'n' Talk" to highlight the social side to walking to school; it can be fun and fascinating! Start exploring ways you can promote walking in your area, if you think of a cracker do email [walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk) ! Visit the website for ideas and materials as you try to get more children walking and talking.

<http://www.walktoschool.org.uk/>

## Links and Resources – themed by Doorway

- **The Prince's Rainforests Project for Schools**

<http://www.princesrainforestsproject.org/schools/about/about-schools>

The Prince's Rainforests Project for Schools aims to provide a framework for learning about the rainforests and their global significance, in which children and teachers work collaboratively and find solutions to problems. Lessons are compatible with the UK National Curriculum and will help schools teach about sustainability.

30 lessons have been created, which are called Quests. They promote an interactive learning style which helps build thinking cultures within classrooms and provokes further questioning. Hopefully they're fun too! The Quests cover a wide range of rainforest topics. Issues raised include biodiversity, climate change/carbon emissions, indigenous people, rainforest ecosystems and sustainability.

Please visit the website for more information, and to sign up to support the Project.

### Food and Drink

- **Good Food Training - FREE Training Courses**

Following on from the successful workshop at the LSSF event on 13<sup>th</sup> March, the 'Good Food Training for London' project is offering free training for LSSF members. The project is run by the Greenwich Co-operative Development Agency and funded by the London Development Agency.

There are courses in every aspect of food: healthy eating and nutrition, cooking skills, purchasing and menu planning, customer service, growing food and running a cookery club. For a full listing see [www.sustainweb.org/goodfoodtraining](http://www.sustainweb.org/goodfoodtraining).

The trainers will come to you and train at your venue, with a minimum participant number of 10. Contact details are on the website.

NB If you are interested but unable to organise the minimum number required in your school/borough, please get in contact. If there is enough interest from Forum members, the LSSF will organise and host training sessions in the summer term. Email [sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk) to let us know which course you are interested in.

- **Why Farming Matters**

[http://www.face-online.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1110&Itemid=995](http://www.face-online.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1110&Itemid=995)

The most significant development in teaching materials on farming for many years.

This extremely popular resource is now also available in electronic format on the FACE website. The resource is available in two versions, Primary and Secondary. More packs have now been made available – you can order your pack at the website.

### Energy and Water

- **Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme**

<http://www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk>

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)'s Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme aims to promote the efficient use of biomass for energy, by stimulating the early deployment of biomass fuelled heat and biomass combined heat and power projects. It will do this by awarding capital grants towards the cost of equipment in complete installations.

The scheme:

- is open to the industrial, commercial and community sector. This includes schools.
- provides capital grants to support the installation of biomass-fuelled heat and combined heat and power projects, including anaerobic digesters.
- offers a variable grant rate of up to 40% of the difference in cost of installing the biomass boiler or CHP plant compared to installing the fossil fuel alternative.
- offers a maximum single award of £500,000 per installation. There is no minimum award threshold.

All enquiries should be addressed to [biocapitalgrants@aeat.co.uk](mailto:biocapitalgrants@aeat.co.uk) . There is a Frequently Asked Questions page and a Key Features page on the website. Please refer back to this site at regular intervals whilst you prepare your application. Go to the website for an application form and guidance notes.

Please note that the deadline for the receipt of applications is 16.00 hrs on the **30<sup>th</sup> April 2009**.

### Travel and Traffic

- **TfL Update on School Travel: KS3 Curriculum Focus on Cycling resources and 2009 Secondary School Cycle Challenge**

The initial 4 cycling resources for London secondary schools are ready to be distributed to schools, borough officers and external stakeholders throughout April. Maths, English, Design Technology and Geography each contain 4 projects which students can implement which promotes cycling and school travel plans. The remaining 4 resources (History, PE, Citizenship and Science) will be going to print throughout April and distributed throughout June.

In May all secondary school staff, year 6, 7 and 8 students across the London region will be invited to register to take part in the first ever TfL schools online cycle competition. School will compete against other schools for the highest number of participants and the biggest total recorded mileage by the team (school). From Monday 15th June – Friday 26th June, staff and students alike will be encouraged to log their mileage and number of cyclists that ride during and after school hours over a two week duration. The winning school will be invited to a presentation event to receive their prize.

Ask your local School Travel Advisor for more details about either of the above.

- **Brilliant Bike It!**  
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp?sID=1161772728109>

We know that millions of children want to cycle to school in this country, yet only 2% do.

Sustrans has stepped in to sort this out with Bike It, a ground-breaking project which has already quadrupled the number of children cycling to its target schools.

If you'd like to know more about the impact that Bike It has in the community, download the new booklet Brilliant Bike It. It's packed full of quotes from children, parents and teachers who've had first-hand experience of the amazing benefits that getting involved with Bike It bring!

### Purchasing and Waste

- **Don't Get Rid- Get Recycling!**  
<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/recycle.html>

1 in 5 young people have thrown away an unwanted gadget in the past- gadgets that can go on to provide valuable resources for developing countries.

Oxfam and the UK Youth Parliament are enabling schools across the country to set up recycling collections for gadgets that have been left lying around.

As part of the Recycling: Free It! campaign they are aiming to get 1000 schools signed up.

Visit the link above for more information.

### Buildings and Grounds

- **Access to Nature**  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature)

Grants of £50,000 to £500,000 are available for projects in London that will provide new opportunities for people to enjoy, explore, learn about and be involved with the capital's natural environment.

The grants are available from Access to Nature, Natural England's £25 million grant programme. The programme aims to benefit 1.7million people across the country by funding projects that connect people from all backgrounds to their local green spaces and overcome barriers to them engaging with nature.

The priority will be to fund projects that will make a lasting change to disadvantaged communities in areas of high social and economic deprivation and helping people who currently have little or no contact with the natural environment.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations including registered charities, voluntary and community sector organisations, local authorities and other public sector bodies. To qualify for funding organisations must show evidence of partnership working and how they intend to involve the people they are trying to reach in developing, making decisions about and implementing the project.

You can submit an Expression of Interest application at any time up until **June 2010**.

Visit the Access to Nature website for more information: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature) or contact Joanna Watson (Access to Nature Regional Adviser, London): [joanna.watson@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:joanna.watson@naturalengland.org.uk).

### Inclusion and Participation

- **We Are What We Do – now looking for potential Young Speakers across London!**  
[www.wearewhatwedo.org/youngspeakers](http://www.wearewhatwedo.org/youngspeakers)

We Are What We Do aims to inspire people to use their simple everyday actions to address the big social and environmental problems which affect us all. The movement has reached a massive audience, with products and campaigns such as Change the World for a Fiver, I'm NOT a Plastic Bag and the children's campaign, Teach Your Granny to Text. The Young Speakers Programme puts 6th formers in charge of this powerful and engaging movement in their communities.

WAWWD are now looking for 200 new Young Speakers from schools and colleges. They will go on a 2-day residential training course in public speaking and creative methods through which they can campaign, and will receive support to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to go into their communities as social activists and public speakers. They will each deliver interactive presentations in their own schools, local primary schools and community groups, inspiring thousands of children with the message that small, simple actions, such as learning some sign language or switching things off when you leave the room, can create big social change.

The programme is **fully funded** and requires no financial input from schools. For further information, you can watch a short film (<http://www.vimeo.com/3017219>) or browse through the website (link above). If you think you might be interested then email: [katie.winfield@wearewhatwedo.org](mailto:katie.winfield@wearewhatwedo.org) and she'll get back to you with all the information you need.

## Local Well-being

- **GreenPrints**  
<http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/greenprints>

A partnership of five of the country's leading not-for-profit organisations have come together to provide support and funding to help young people improve green spaces in their communities.

SITA Trust, the youth volunteering charity, BTCV, The Wildlife Trusts and the BBC's Breathing Places campaign, have joined forces to develop a two-year programme called GreenPrints which will offer funding of up to £10,000, as well as support and practical expertise from the partners, to enable 16–25 year olds to make a real difference to the communities in which they live by improving green spaces for people and wildlife. The funding is open to not for profit organisations for projects designed and delivered by groups of volunteers aged 16 to 25.

Individual, dedicated mentor-support will be provided by the BTCV and The Wildlife Trusts to assist with the practical delivery of every single project that is supported.

## Global Dimension

- **Think Global: The Age of Stupid – free toolkits for schools!**  
[http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101751/the\\_age\\_of\\_stupid.html](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101751/the_age_of_stupid.html)

ActionAid and Spanner Films have teamed up to create Think Global: The Age of Stupid, an informative and thought-provoking toolkit for schools and community groups to think and act on the issues raised in new film The Age of Stupid.

**Free** toolkits worth £25 are available to the first 1000 schools who apply.

Our lifestyles, war, climate refugees, flooding, carbon rationing, poverty and other challenges are presented in a range of tough dilemmas, thought experiments and other activities. Ready in September, the toolkit will include:

- 30 photcards that can be used independently or with the rest of the resource pack. Each card will include an image from the film and thought provoking activities.
- DVD-Rom containing video clips from the film
- Editable video footage
- Activity sheets
- Guidance for running lessons, workshops and taking action
- Think Global toolkit with activities for thinking and acting on global issues.

The toolkit will be available from September 2009 in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Sign up asap to receive a free toolkit!

## **Local Perspective – 'Feeling Good: Eating Well' Wandsworth schools project** *Helen Evans, New Covent Garden Market*

New Covent Garden Market is now in the second year of its Schools Project, Feeling Good: Eating Well. Eight local primary schools, including one special needs school for the visually impaired, will be visiting the Market over the next few months. This year, for the first time, a secondary school will also take part in this scheme with the theme of enterprise as part of their involvement.

During their visit to the market the students will learn about fresh fruit and vegetables, design a smoothie and explore various tastes at a series of sensory tables. Each primary school is taking part in a sustainable gardening competition and will also visit a farm. As this is the second year of the

sustainable garden, the competition has been taken to the next level with the schools being challenged to grow and cook a two course meal by the end of term.

The NCGM website not only links to a range of external resources but also provides a platform through which participating schools can create blogs, network with each other or ask an expert for horticultural advice. So if one school has a glut of seedlings they can share with the others or if they encounter a problem with pests they can share experiences.

For the secondary school, the project merges the theme of healthy eating with that of enterprise and the students will be looking for ways of making a profit out of fruit bought at the market.

This project has generated considerable interest with other local schools and we are exploring ways with Wandsworth Children Services and Environmental Services to meet this increased demand.

For more information about the Feeling Good: Eating Well project and to download some of the resources, please visit: <http://www.newcoventgardenmarket.com/FeelingGood/tabid/134/Default.aspx>

## Learning outside the classroom: Go and visit.....

### ...Epping Forest Field Centre

In the heart of ancient woodland, Epping Forest Field Centre is purpose-built non residential centre located in a terrific Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation that provides excellent learning opportunities.

The Centre is managed by the Field Studies Council on behalf of the City of London Corporation, and was established to commemorate the European Year of Conservation in 1970. 'The quality of guidance and support offered to learners before and during their stay is outstanding...The overall quality of both leadership and management is outstanding' Chris Warn, former Senior OFSTED Inspector (Oct 2007).

The Centre pioneered a sustainable schools project in 2004 and is currently engaged in exciting action research with leading educationalist and author Ken Webster. This research aims to develop a new programme which shows how 'Lessons from Nature' can be used to contribute to the establishment of a vibrant new low carbon economy.

The Centre offers both set programmes and flexible courses for all levels and abilities from KS1 to Advanced Level and Higher Education. It has excellent transport links and is only a few kilometres from the M25 and from Loughton (Central Line) and Chingford (from Liverpool St Station).

FSC Epping Forest is one of the first organisations in the country to be awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, recognising it as a provider of quality, safely managed educational experiences for young people.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/eppingforest/>

## Inspirational Quote

'We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories...And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it' - *President Barack Obama*, 20 Jan 2009