



25 March 2022

Parents / Guardians,

You may be aware that Heckmondwike Grammar School has an Eco-Committee. We are a group of representatives from each year group who meet every Tuesday lunch time and are working towards achieving the Eco-Schools Green Flag award for our school. This is a long process and all students involved have worked extremely hard up to this point. Now we need your help! We had to assess the school's sustainability at the current time, and from then on form an action plan to improve it as much as we can.

As part of our attempt to make our school more eco-friendly we are hosting a Green Week commencing Monday 28 March to Friday 1 April. We are hosting many things as part of this week and need your help with a couple.

For example:

- Guest speakers we be in on lunchtimes during the week to talk to talk to students of all years about topics related to climate issues and sustainability. This will include local Green Party Representatives and MP's, a representative from Woodland Trust, talks from the new company in charge of waste at the school. These will be exciting opportunities for students to learn more about the environment and climate change in our local areas. Specific days to follow.
- We will be providing form activities throughout the week as well as assemblies for each year group to engage the pupils in learning more about the environment and the ways we can help it. These will be focused on our key topic areas: Global Citizenship; Litter and Waste.
- There will also be other activities available for students to enter such as national competitions and more!

We are also hoping that you will all join us in kicking off Green Week with switching your lights off at 8pm on Saturday 26 and partaking in Earth Hour. A global event where houses in countries around the world switch off their lights for one hour to show support in the climate crisis.

Yet the most important event that we need help with is taking place the week after our Green Week. On Tuesday the 5 of April after school, we will be holding a collections event in Swann Hall, from 3:45 – 5:15. This will include several components:

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- A book swap, please bring any read or unused books along and in return you can collect someone else's preloved book. Books are extremely important in any community, yet it is undeniable that their production can have a large effect on the environment. Therefore, to combat this, we are hosting a book swap to help you declutter your bookshelves, and instead of splashing out on a new copy of book, you can instead receive a preloved one for free. In addition, this will include textbooks and revision guides, if donated, helping to reduce the amount of waste created by each year group purchasing new, unused revision guides and books year after year. If you wish to donate books in advance of the event, please send them in with you child up to the Geography Department, and they will be collected in the office there. All books left over will be donated to Children's hospitals and charity shops.
- Clothes drive collection, these are to be collected **only** on the evening and then will be sorted out by our students and then sent to those in need in the local area. After the success of the schools recent Ukraine Appeal we were initially hoping to repeat this. However, many of the local collections for Ukraine are no longer accepting donations due to being overwhelmed. After this we make the decision to donate all the clothes to those in need in the local community. We are open to a large amounts of donations obviously excluding underwear, and ask that all clothes are clean and not just rags.
- Food Bank Collection, along with the clothes drive, as part of our aim to improve the Global Citizenship of the school. This will include anything that can be donated at a foodbank such as canned goods, toiletries, pasta and rice. Helping prevent poverty in our community is vital to us and after seeing the success of the reverse advent collection, we hope that this can happen again.

We believe that this is a great opportunity for us as a school and a community to improve our sustainability, and we hope you will be able to help us in any way possible.

The reason it is taking place after our actual Green Week is due to the fact that we need as many people to turn up and help out as possible, we will advertise it as much as possible throughout the week in assemblies and all activities.

Any support in any of our events would be greatly appreciated, and 1898 points will be given to students who provide any donations or attend any of the talks.

Thank you for your time, and we hope to see you in a few weeks!

HGS Eco-Committee

