

Gateways pupils deploy sustainable and environmental initiatives



During the enrichment session on Thursday, pupils from Lower 6 down to Transition were able to engage in activities to improve the school environment and develop a more sustainable culture here at Gateways. The Prep school had already established a hardworking and dedicated team of eco warriors. We invited them to our eco activity sessions so they could share with us all the great things they have done and also join in with high school to build on these successes. We had a variety of workshops to address multiple areas of sustainability and improvements to our Gateways culture.

Pippa in Lower 6 was keen to put her creativity and textiles expertise to great use and came up with an idea of creating a unique piece of textiles work all made from recycled fabric that focused on the ethos of Gateways - Growth Wellbeing and Success. To fully appreciate the beauty and dedication that has gone into this, it will be displayed in a position so that visitors will be able to view it. It is truly spectacular!

Another group of pupils focused on complementing the already existing bug hotel developed by the eco warriors. We made bee pollinators using recycled tin cans and bamboo canes. The

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cans were decorated in the style of insects and then hung around the trees to hopefully attract the bees and provide them with a home.

In addition, another project focused on using our collection of ecobricks that were made from many kilograms of single use plastic to build some long-term planters to place near our rewilding area. This is quite a big project and it is hoped it will be completed when we return in September.

In order to kick start our eco initiatives in September, a lot of preparation has been put in place. We are rolling out thorough paper recycling throughout all classrooms and offices and to do this, team of pupils were responsible for designing the signs and logos for over 70 bins. Thankfully we managed to finish this in the last ten minutes of the day and they are ready to use in September. In addition to this another team prepared a beautiful display of a 'tree of pledges'. We will be asking our pupils and staff to take a paper leaf and make a climate pledge in September which will then be added to the tree in the hope of establishing a more sustainable and environmentally friendly culture at Gateways. It is hoped that we will be able to learn from each other's pledges to gain ideas about how to be a more environmentally considerate individual.

I think it is safe to say that the new term in September will bring great changes in terms of our environmental commitments in High School. The pupils took the lead on these initiatives throughout the day and have made a huge impact already.

Dr Sara Newton