

# Eco Challenge News

Eco Challenge is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund. Over the three years of the project Eco Challenge will support 7500 young people from 250 schools in England.



Autumn 09

To find out more visit:

[www.fsc-eco-challenge.org](http://www.fsc-eco-challenge.org)

Contact your project officer Jen Maywhort for more info and your password

Tel. 015395 38123

email [jen.ch@field-studies-council.org](mailto:jen.ch@field-studies-council.org)

**Don't miss the chance to receive funding as part of this nationwide project.** Eco Challenge is entering its third and final year and there is still funding available in your region. 151 schools from 22 local authorities in England have received funding enabling around 3775 KS3 students to experience a residential course and follow up work in their local community. This newsletter gives examples of how students in your area have benefitted from the funding – why not get involved?

Find out more on the Eco Challenge website [www.fsc-eco-challenge.org](http://www.fsc-eco-challenge.org) including course dates for the residential. Your special school password and contact details for your project officer are on the letter accompanying this newsletter.

**Eco Challenge provides funding for a short residential course and three follow up sessions in the school grounds or local community space to help KS3 students**

- Improve personal and social development skills including increased self confidence, awareness of self and others, team skills and improved communication skills
- Increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of the natural environment
- Increase pride in local green spaces
- Increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of environmental and sustainable issues

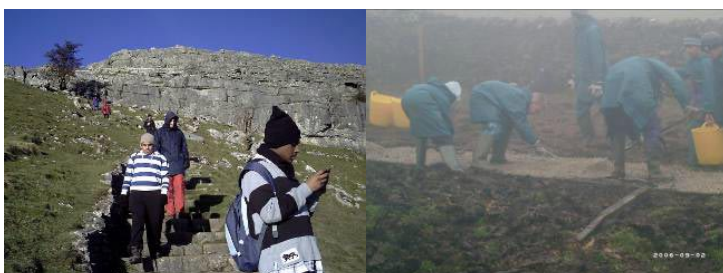
**Make sure your students don't miss out. Residential courses are available on a first come first served basis so don't hesitate - visit the website and book your course.**

## HOW IS MANCHESTER INVOLVED?

**MANCHESTER is one of the largest local authorities Eco Challenge is working with and we are delighted that 50% of schools are already involved.** This newsletter gives you a snapshot of what they have been doing. We hope it will encourage your school to join in.

**Limestone landscapes, local woodland and self-sufficiency - the Burnage Media Arts College experience...**

Students and staff alike had a memorable residential trip to Malham Tarn. Students were faced with a challenging walk down to the impressive Malham Cove whilst exploring the various ways which humans have influenced this unique landscape over the centuries. Despite the atmospheric Malham mist the boys worked enthusiastically on the kitchen garden project making footpaths and clearing vegetation for the raised beds.



Left: students walking down to Malham Cove  
Right: hard at work in the kitchen garden in the Malham mist!

...Back at school, students were faced with learning how to look after themselves with staff at the nearby Paupers Wood project. The boys learnt woodland management skills, footpath laying, shelter building and fire making and even made their own lunch over the fire!



Left: students learning some woodland management skills  
Right: a gourmet feast cooking over the fire!

## TASTIER SESSIONS WITH AfSL!

Action for Sustainable Living (AfSL) is one local organisation that has been busy delivering follow up sessions for several schools – Levenshulme, Chorlton and St Paul's High schools and will work with Parklands High in the future.

Working on local community allotment projects students have been able to explore, understand, look after and taste the benefits of home grown food and then look forward to initiating allotment and composting projects back in school.

*'The workshops all went really well because the students were switched on to the issues from their FSC residential and so were particularly receptive to how they could bring those skills and learning back to a more local context'*  
Josh Steiner, AfSL

## Still not convinced? - here's what people who have taken part say...



*'I am more aware of how to be more eco-friendly.....now I grow my own vegetables in my own garden'*

Student, Levenshulme High School

*'Eco Challenge made me realise how much fun the outdoors can be'*

Student, Whalley Range High School



*'During the follow up activities, we noticed that most students are better able to carry out suitable tasks without direct supervision than we would have expected before participation.....and some have shown real initiative and leadership during problem solving activities'*

Lead Teacher, Burnage Media Arts College



*'I was asked to sit as a judge on one of the high school's Healthy Schools gold level award panel. During the event the young people gave presentations on their work with the Eco Challenge team and it had obviously been one of the great highlights of their year.'*

Josh Steiner, Action for Sustainable Living.



*The group was made up of a mixture of boys and girls, and for the first time, a mixture of year groups. This, I feel was one of the trips greatest successes, as older pupils looked out for the more vulnerable younger ones and this led to a supportive, relaxed and hard-working ethos'*

Teacher, Newall Green High School



*'Working in a wood near school students realised that they did not have to go far to be in nature and to make a difference'*

Lead Teacher, Whalley Range High School

### North West

**There are 151 schools currently involved in the Eco Challenge project. These schools are involved in your region – why not join them?**

**Blackpool:** Collegiate High School, St Mary's Catholic High School, Bispham High School, Highfield High School

**Halton:** Fairfield High School, Wade Deacon High

**Knowsley:** Halewood College, Kirby Sports College, Knowsley Park Centre for Learning, Knowsley Hey School, Ruffwood Community School, St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

**Liverpool:** Calderstones School, Croxteth Community Comprehensive School, Fazakerley High School, New Heys Comprehensive School, North Liverpool Academy, Notre Dame Catholic High School, Parklands High School, St Julies Catholic High School, St Margaret's C of E High School, The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, The Alsop High School, Archbishop Blanch Church of England (V A) High School, Broadgreen High School, Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, Childwall Sports College, De La Salle Catholic High School, Holly Lodge Girl's School, St Benedict's College, St John Bosco High School, West Derby School

**Manchester:** Loreto High School, Parklands High School, St Matthew's RC High School Manchester, St Paul's Catholic High School, St Peters RC High School, Burnage Media Arts College, Chorlton High School, Levenshulme High School, Newall Green High School, Whalley Range 11-18 High School

**Salford:** Harrop Fold School, Wentworth High School, Hope High School, Irlam and Cadishead Community High School

### Get involved...

Our website has all the information you need [www.fsc-eco-challenge.org](http://www.fsc-eco-challenge.org) or alternatively contact one of the Eco Challenge team for more information on 01743 852108 or email [ecochallenge@field-studies-council.org](mailto:ecochallenge@field-studies-council.org).

*Remember to contact your Project Officer – Jen Maywhort for your school's unique password to log on to the website*

**[www.fsc-eco-challenge.org](http://www.fsc-eco-challenge.org)**

Field Studies Council

Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 1HW Tel: (01743) 852100 Fax: (01743) 852101 email [fsc.headoffice@field-studies-council.org](mailto:fsc.headoffice@field-studies-council.org)

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