

TOP OF THE CLASS FOR ECO-SCHOOL

Woodstone Community Primary School secures second coveted Green Flag award

By SOPHIE MARSH

A RAVENSTONE school has proved it is top of its class with a second coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Pupils from Woodstone Community Primary School have been working hard to transform their school's daily routine into one that benefits the environment and saves the school money.

Woodstone's environmentally friendly Green Team, implemented some simple changes, such as ensuring all unnecessary lights are switched off and that paper, cans and other materials are recycled. They have already managed to cut bills as well as making



Woodstone one of the most sustainable schools in the country. Headteacher Mr Mullins, said: "Obtaining the Green Flag award is something that the whole school and its surrounding community can be proud of. Each pupil will be able to take away some degree of satisfaction in the knowledge that their actions have significantly altered their

local environment. "It has been a fantastic initiative for all involved, however it is by no means over, as the greater challenge is to maintain what we have achieved so far and look towards ways of improving even further." Managed by Keep Britain Tidy, Eco-Schools asks children to set up a committee involving pupils from all years. They then set

to work on a school audit that highlights areas of the school that could be made more environmentally friendly.

Research conducted by Keep Britain Tidy found that schools spend just under £1million a year on electricity. Small changes like switching to energy-saving light bulbs, which last up to ten times longer than ordinary ones and save between £5 and £10

per bulb, per year, can make huge savings.

The benefits of working towards an award such as the Green Flag award extend beyond improvement of the environmental quality of the school. The programme provides pupils with a sense of responsibility and pride in their achievements, behaviour which will hopefully spill over into the actions in the wider community.

RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM COUNCIL'S IMPROVEMENT TO SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESIDENTS will benefit from improved sexual health services in one place and with longer opening times thanks to a new approach funded by Derbyshire County Council.

From Wednesday, April 1, they will be able to access a wide range of services, including contraception, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and HIV advice, in 30 clinics across the county closer to their homes.

Improvements as part of new 'Your Sexual Health Matters' service include longer opening hours six days a week, help with STIs and contraception issues in one place and more than 30 clinics across Derbyshire.

Other improvements include pre-booked and drop-in appointments available, good public transport links and convenient parking and disabled access.

Elaine Michel, Derbyshire County Council's director of public health, said: "Residents will benefit from the changes as they will have access to sexual health services in one place, during longer opening hours and at more clinics.

"We're very pleased to be able to fund this new approach working in partnership with DCHS to provide a more joined-up service to offer everyone who needs it equal and easy access to improved treatment, support and

advice. "It's completely confidential and I would encourage people to have no hesitation in using the service if they have any concerns - and take a look at the new website for expert advice and care on maintaining good sexual health." The service will also be supported by a new

website providing a one-stop shop for information and advice with an online booking system coming this summer.

For more information visit: www.yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk or to book an appointment telephone: 01246 235792 or: 0800 328 3383.

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