



RECYCLING CHALLENGE: ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Thursday 30th March

This recycling challenge is proving a real winner with Cockermouth School pupils. Designed to enable the pupils to take on the role of a Borough Council it asks them to decide how they would deal with household rubbish. Four teams of up to ten children aim to create a strategy for dealing with household waste, whilst working to a budget and taking on board the environmental impact/legislation, just like a council.

Designed and developed by members of The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) and Westlakes Research Institute (WRI), the challenge has been carried out initially as a pilot with pupils from Cockermouth School. This is proving of interest not only to the schools - Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council are interested and representatives from both are starting to take part.

Dr Rob Petrie of Cockermouth School described the challenge as:

"An extremely useful opportunity for the pupils to apply the skills learnt in class to a real life situation. The workshop leaders were superb and skilfully guided the students through the day's activities, culminating in a presentation by each group. All of these were of a very high standard and I was impressed by the mature approach of the pupils when facing questions from the experts. At the end of the day, the pupils came away with a clear idea of how the maths taught in the classroom could be used in the real world and also with a greater appreciation of the impact of recycling, reducing and reusing, on the environment. The day at Westlakes was a great example of how strong links between the school and the community can be used to enhance the learning of the students."

Graduates who are members of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and employed by British Nuclear Group, lead the workshops. Adrian Hadley and Michael Robinson who developed the idea both carried out their MSc project at Westlakes Research Institute.

At the end of the challenge the children were presented with prizes made from reusable sources. These included pencil cases/mouse mats made from car tyres, pens/pencils/rulers made from vending cups and writing pads made from recycled paper with rubber covers made from car tyres.