

Plastics Challenge...

An opportunity for students to apply their D&T skills to find solutions to problems caused by waste plastics globally.



This article shares the story of how Rachel Holland, a D&T teacher and textiles specialist and Eva Foster, an enterprise and careers co-ordinator from Myton School combined their skills to run a D&T and enterprise day for their Year 7 students.

Myton school is a large secondary school in Warwick, with 1,700 students on roll, 270 of which are in the sixth form. The school has held academy status since July 2011.

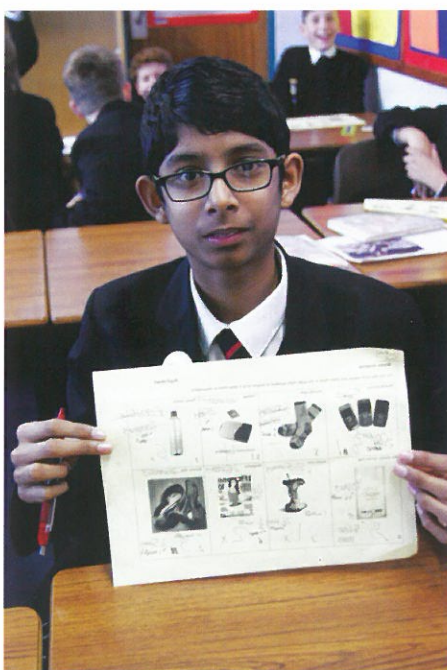
Myton holds a curriculum freeze day once a term for the whole school, when regular lessons are suspended in favour of a program of activities to enhance students experience and learning outside the constraints of the curriculum. The school recently made some significant changes to its daily practice including the introduction of a Key Stage 3 diploma for students in Year 7 and 8. The diploma encourages students to collect and present evidence of a group of ten learning habits in order to improve learners' employability skills and prepare for the needs of the local and national market place. STEM was also introduced as an individual subject at Key Stage 3 to complement D&T, science and maths and a restructuring of the pastoral

system to introduce vertical tutoring and a programme of P4C (Philosophy for Children).

Curriculum freeze day

The spring term curriculum freeze day 2015 was to be organised in year groups. Previously Year 7 had completed a 'renew and reuse' challenge where students had worked in teams to produce a range products manufactured from reused materials to then sell at a trade fair attended by parents. While this event had run for a couple of years with good success we were looking for ways in which we could adapt this activity to link more closely with the schools new developments and real businesses in the private and voluntary sector. The Plastics Challenge from Practical Action seemed to be a great resource which we could use to deliver a stimulating and informative activity to a large year group underpinned by a link to D&T, enterprise education, STEM and P4C. It would enable us to provide students with an opportunity to increase their levels of enterprise capability through a one off activity that could be delivered in a way to suit our particular needs.

Running the activity as a suspended timetable activity gave us the opportunity to plan a varied range of activities with a practical outcome and a presentation at the end of the day. The Plastics Challenge resource has a series of tasks which can be run as a complete sequence, or can be dipped into to develop a more personalised activity. We chose to divide the day into three main sessions.



PLASTICS CHALLENGE

DID YOU KNOW?

Every year in the UK, we produce **5 MILLION TONNES** of plastic and **75% OF IT ENDS UP IN LANDFILL... THAT'S A WASTE!**

In **NEPAL** plastic is thought of as **SOMETHING VALUABLE** that can be made into new products... **PERHAPS WE COULD DO MORE OF THAT TOO?**

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

IMAGINE YOU ARE A DESIGNER, ENGINEER OR SCIENTIST
What ideas do you have to improve the sustainability of plastics?

- RETHINK
- REDUCE
- REUSE
- RECYCLE

practicalaction.org/plastics-challenge