

Eco-Schools and Waste Aid (2019-20) – a summary

The Charities Committee chose WasteAid as the school charity for 2019/20. The chosen charity benefits from the majority of fundraising by staff and students over the course of the year. It is usual for a local charity to be selected but the Charities Committee were very keen to support the work being done by the Eco-Committee. This was approved by SLT and Governors.

Although lockdown had a significant impact on fundraising opportunities the committee found creative ways of getting the whole school community involved in fundraising events, including many during lockdown. These included, sponsored walks as part of daily exercise and sculpture competitions with art work made from waste products. The Bulletin and Assemblies were used to keep the school community updated on the progress during the year and to inform everyone of the work of WasteAid.

The school communicated with representatives from WasteAid throughout and worked with staff based in the UK as well as in Kenya. A high point was a one hour Zoom call with two WasteAid staff in Kenya and members of the Charities Committee and representatives from the Eco-Committee.

The total amount raised was £11,486. This will be used to support several key projects in Kenya, Uganda and Cameroon. A key project supported manufactures road tiles from recycled plastic bottles.

The email below was received from WasteAid on receipt of the funds and gives details of another project.

Email from WasteAid

Thank you for all the incredible support that Harrogate Grammar has provided to WasteAid and partners!

Thanks to a tremendous fundraising effort by Harrogate Grammar and other groups, KMEG has benefitted from vital PPE and other equipment to help the community through these recent months. Meanwhile our partners in Cameroon also have increased needs and (assuming you're happy to of course) we would like to use some of these funds to support them too.

WasteAid in Cameroon - <https://wasteaid.org/ukaidmatch-2019/>

WasteAid is working with local partners in the coastal city of Douala, to build a plastic waste recycling centre and train 160 unemployed youths to transform plastic waste into useful products like paving tiles. Douala sits on the Cameroon estuary, where four rivers meet - carrying vast amounts of plastic waste down to the Atlantic Ocean. The estuary is an internationally important biodiversity hotspot with turtles, manatees and mangrove forest. We are aiming to capture a large amount of plastic that is on its way downriver to the ocean, and create employment opportunities in a very deprived neighbourhood of the city. The link above includes information about the ecology of the Cameroon estuary, as well as a photo diary of a day in the life, showing scenes of plastic pollution in Douala.

Meanwhile, our Kenyan project manager, Luther Hinga (cc'd here) will be very happy to join your Zoom call (Jill has recently moved on from WasteAid). Luther can talk about the positive impact that your generous contribution has made in Kenya as well as the planned activities in Cameroon.

Thanks again to all your staff and pupils for helping make a big positive difference. I hope your meet-up with Ray goes really well and that you like the keyrings made from bicycle inner tubes!

Wishing you all the very best

Zoë

Zoë Lenkiewicz / Head of Programmes and Engagement

zoe@wasteaid.org @ZoeLenkiewicz @WasteAid +44 (0)7720 706155



WasteAid shares recycling skills around the world: wasteaid.org/donate

WasteAid UK, UK Reg'd Charity 1160263; Reg'd Address: 483 Green Lanes, London N13 4BS, UK