



Dear PTA member/Governor/parent/carer,

We are writing to inform you that recently we have started the journey to become an international Green Flag Award Eco-School.

In England, the Eco-Schools programme is run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. Internationally, the programme is operated by FEE (The Foundation for Environmental Education) and is the largest educational programme in the world running in 67 countries and 52,000 schools. Globally, 19.5 million young people are involved in the programme and our school is now a part of this global community, working to protect the environment for future generations. We have already had over 50 students sign up which shows the student support.

The Eco-Schools programme is designed to empower students, raise environmental awareness, improve the school environment and lead to financial savings for schools. The most important thing about the Eco-Schools programme is it is something the students in our school will remember for life.

We are aiming to achieve Green Flag status within this academic year; however, the timeline is quite strict so this may flow into next year. We will then continue with the Eco-Schools programme, renewing our Green Flag every two years, working on a wider variety of topics.

To achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award involves following a seven-step framework: forming an Eco-Committee, carrying out an Environmental Review, creating an Action Plan, linking environmental work to the curriculum, Informing and Involving the school and wider community about progress made, monitoring and evaluating ecological changes to the school and finally producing an Eco-Code for the whole school. There are ten topics that we can work on as evidence towards their Green Flag and these are Biodiversity, Energy, Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Litter, Marine, School Grounds, Transport, Waste and Water. We have now set up the eco committee, carried out our environmental review, and are now working on our action plan. The projects we are currently considering include: taking steps to reduce litter around school; avoiding using single-use plastics in school and greater use of reusable items like water bottles and lunch boxes to avoid waste.

If you would like to provide support for the programme we would love to hear from you. You may be able to assist us with fundraising, by becoming a member of our school Eco-Committee or simply by sharing advice on an environmental project.

We hope you are as excited by our decision to join the programme as we are. If you have any suggestions, ideas or simply want to get involved in the programme please contact Ms Smith, our staff representative, at ags@harrogategrammar.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Warren

Eco-Coordinator / Deputy Head Student

www.eco-schools.org.uk