



A SUMMARY OF OUR GREEN CREDENTIALS





ABOUT US

The Royal Hospital School is an independent co-educational boarding and day school for 11-18 year olds, providing an outstanding, full and broad education enriched by a unique naval heritage and fit for the modern world. Founded in 1712 in Greenwich, London, it moved to its spectacular site, set in 200 acres of Suffolk countryside overlooking the River Stour, in 1933. The School has continued to develop its spectacular purpose-built site and grow in size and reputation to become one of East Anglia's leading independent schools.

GREEN CREDENTIALS

SINCE A BASELINE REPORT WAS WRITTEN IN 2010 TO CARBON CHARTER GOLD RENEWAL IN 2019, THE OVERALL CARBON FOOTPRINT HAS DECREASED BY 35%.

ENABLERS

Particular savings have been made in the utilities: water usage down 54%, heating oil usage down 41%, and electricity down 26%. A comprehensive metering and monitoring system was put in place in 2012 which identified areas for improvement. This works alongside an increasingly sophisticated Building Management System which more accurately controls energy use. In addition, significant investment has been made in:

- Insulating pipework and lofts – most of accessible areas now insulated.
- Secondary glazing of 158 windows (while being sensitive to Grade II listing).
- Installing LED lighting – ongoing programme throughout whole school.
- Swimming Pool cover – paid for itself in energy cost savings within a year.
- Adjustments to machinery to increase operational efficiency, e.g. pump inverters.
- Overhaul of water treatment system, saving electricity and eliminating waste.
- Refurbishment of Laundry to use more efficient machinery, remove dry cleaning machine and convert from oil to LPG.
- Working with support of our Catering contractor, Chartwells, food waste goes to the Adnams biodigester, and oil to the Olleco scheme. Sustainably sourced non-plastic disposables are used when reusable tableware cannot be. For example, during the October 2019 replacement of the dishwasher for a more efficient model.
- Purozo Stabilised Aqueous Ozone (SAO) will replace 80% of cleaning chemicals used by August 2020. The units produce aqueous ozone solution created from clean water, and which reverts to water after 24hrs, so there is no chemical waste. All containers are reusable, and there is no packaging, production and transport from buying chemicals. The filter used to create the SAO is recycled by Purozo at the end of its life.



BEHAVIOURS

“To cultivate a global outlook and environmental responsibility” is advertised as one of the core educational aims of the School. The pupil-led Eco Committee are the driving force behind behavioural change.

The aim of the Eco-Committee is to influence behaviours of pupils and staff as well as educating them on resource efficiency topics and to champion the sustainable ethos to them and their wider circle of families, friends and future employers. Each boarding and day house has representatives on the Eco committee that are empowered to give advice and direction to their peers. Information is also relayed to Senior House Staff to enable them to facilitate and encourage behavioural change.

Each academic year the Committee run projects to engage the School community.

In academic year 2016/17 a competition was run with a Tour de France theme: different stages and prizes within whole competition, to engage the whole school. Evaluation of the contents of bins plus energy usage data, considering numbers of pupils per house, were used to judge how energy efficient and good at recycling each house was, and points were awarded accordingly. Prizes were awarded periodically for best house at demonstrating ‘green behaviours’, winner of a sustainability themed quiz, reducing food waste, making a film about not wasting heat, and participating in a Kahoot about water saving. Points were also awarded for innovative ideas which were put into practice, such as investing in new bins to

segregate waste, making banana bread from leftovers, introducing sustainably sourced non-plastic disposable tableware, giving a presentation, and pushing for the secondary glazing on boarding house windows. A grand prize was awarded to the house that accrued most points on Speech Day, also raising the profile of environmental sustainability at this event attended by parents.

2018/19 academic year saw two excellent campaigns by the Eco Committee, focusing on the issue of plastic waste. The first project involved collecting all the plastic waste generated in a two-week period across the School, thereby engaging the whole School community. This was then made into a 12’ plastic Christmas tree, displayed in the dining hall instead of the usual real tree. This raised awareness with all pupils and staff and appeared in the media and on social media.

Following this, reusable water bottles have been introduced, vice 10,000 single use plastic bottles used in packed lunches. It is hoped that this and similar resource reducing initiatives will decrease the day to day waste production in future.

All staff receive environmental awareness training and new pupils routinely have an introduction to Estates at the beginning of every academic year as part of PSHE lessons. This gives them an appreciation of where their water and heating come from, how waste is managed, what resources are used, and what work goes on behind the scenes to make the School run.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Analysis of the carbon log highlighted two unintended consequences of work to improve the facilities of the School and increasing staff efficiency. This highlights the importance of measuring and monitoring resource use and maintaining the detailed carbon log, so these issues can be addressed.

- Waste generated has increased in recent years. Day to day waste from the running of the business has not increased, but that generated by refurbishment works, which integrate energy efficiencies, have created a temporary increase in our 'waste footprint'. This will decrease in future years as major projects decrease.
- More efficient and dynamic staff working practices, coupled with several major projects have increased vehicle use, and an increased range of off-site activities, increasing pupil transport, have seen a gradual rise in diesel and

petrol consumption in recent years.

Three electric vehicles are part of the fleet, but to purchase more electric vans fit for purpose proved unaffordable.

In temporary mitigation, GTL fuel has replaced diesel, and electric charging points for staff cars will be researched

Planning permission has been approved for solar panels on one of the non-listed buildings, to be completed as soon as funding is available.

Work continues with the Eco Committee and Chartwells to eliminate single use plastic in packed lunches, and 'Meat free Mondays' seeks to highlight the issue of mass-produced meat and cut down the volume of it in the School menu.

Small Changes, Big Impact is the Eco Committee's next focus, looking at how everyone can make positive changes to live more sustainably.



GROW WITH US

Grow with Us is our new campaign that covers a series of touchpoints for our pupils that fall outside the more traditional areas of the curriculum. It embraces both the well-being of our community and that of our environment.

Over the next seven years, RHS has committed to planting a tree for each new pupil – growing with them throughout their time here and maintaining roots to the school as they progress through life. We are involving parents and pupils in the planting as well as encouraging them to donate native bulbs and plants to add to the woodlands. We are also able to offer businesses in the community the chance to plant trees on our land to help offset their carbon footprint.

With thanks to Groundwork for support and advice during the application process.

