

## Dates for your Diary

Friday 25th May - Bike Film Festival at the Phoenix Theatre. The EMAS Team will be cycling to the event, so look out for us if you are there!

Thursday 14th June - National Car Share Day. Travel to work with a friend or colleague if you can.

3rd and 4th July - EMAS celebration event. Look out for more information in the post in the next few weeks.

## Useful Resources

- Recycle Now Week starting 4th June! Plenty of activity ideas and there is also a competition for schools to recreate the recycle now logo in any form or size they wish. Check out the website: [www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk](http://www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk)

- For Science, check out the BBC Virtual quizzes, here is a link to a quiz for keeping warm: [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8\\_9/keeping\\_warm.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/keeping_warm.shtml)

- Learn about our environment in a really fun and interactive way, lots of resources on the Environment Agency website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fun/368730/?version=1&lang=\\_e](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fun/368730/?version=1&lang=_e)

### Tea Break Trivia

Did you know that there are many different types of worms in the UK. Most people are familiar with the common EARTHWORM, the type you find when digging in the garden. Don't confuse these with the small red worms you find in the compost bin though. These are TIGER or BRANDLING worms, and they love munching their way through all your fruit and vegetable scraps.



## Your Questions Answered....

Feel free to ask us any questions relating to your school and the environment and we'll do our best to answer them. You can send us your questions via the website, email us or ask your EMAS officer when they are next in school.

### Where can we get water butts for rainwater collection?

Many of you now have growing areas, which will be getting thirsty with all this hot weather. Water butts are great as they reuse rainwater that would otherwise just go down the drain. You can connect them to a gutter down-drain and if you put them at a corner near to your growing area or by your shed or greenhouse it can make it much easier to water your garden.

Here are our eco-friendly recommendations:

The Tank Exchange sells reused fruit juice barrels with taps fitted 235 litres for £26.99 - 08704 670706  
[www.thetankexchange.com/raintanks.htm](http://www.thetankexchange.com/raintanks.htm)

The Ecohouse sells a 190L Rain Saver Water Butt Kit made from Recycled plastic with a stand and rain diverter kit for £39.95 - 0116 254 5489. You can also get this online from [www.recyclenow.com/shopping/for\\_the\\_garden/index.html](http://www.recyclenow.com/shopping/for_the_garden/index.html)



# EMAS

MAY 2007

[www.emasinschools.org.uk](http://www.emasinschools.org.uk)



## The A Team

Wow, what a wonderful time the students are having in their weekly EMAS club at Ellesmere College.

Eight students from years eight and nine joined the newly formed EMAS club. Last term, the club worked very hard on reducing waste and increasing recycling in their college. With help from the Premises Officer, the 'A Team' set up a fantastic paper recycling system, but the EMAS club discovered that a lot of fruit and vegetable waste from the college was not being recycled.

Solution: The club devised and performed an assembly on composting, accompanied by music from the drumming club. Now, students from the EMAS club collect fruit and vegetable waste at lunchtime and put it in the compost bin in their quad. The compost is used on the College allotment. Way to go Ellesmere College!

Presently: Together with

being compost monitors, the EMAS Club are exploring ways of saving water in their College. They have put up saving water signs, explored the boiler room with the Premises Officer and undertaken water

experiments to discover the best insulator for a boiler.

The EMAS Co-ordinator said, "The students are very enthusiastic about helping their environment and have achieved so much for their college. I'm very proud of them"

## A word from your team...

At the beginning of March, Paul Smith, the external EMAS auditor visited Leicester.

Seven new schools which have been working towards EMAS verification this year were chosen to be audited, and were visited for half a day each. The audit process was thorough, and all aspects of EMAS were looked at closely.

Paul had many positive comments to make, and was particularly impressed with the commitment shown by the staff and children at every school. All seven schools passed with flying colours, so congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard over the past year to integrate EMAS into your school.



## Sustainable Schools

On the 7th of March 2007 Leicester had the privilege of holding the East Midlands Sustainable Schools Launch Event. The event was held in the Fraser Noble Hall at the University of Leicester and was well attended by teachers; voluntary organisations and professionals from across the region as well as student representatives from both primary and secondary EMAS schools in the city. The event kicked off in style with children from English Martyrs C of E

Secondary School and 'The Weapons of Sound' Playing Junk Funk music on instruments made from recycled materials. The audience were then treated to a selection of presentations on the sustainable schools agenda, the 8 doorways and how they can be achieved on a local level. Speakers included Jake Reynolds (Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development, DfES), Stefan Thomas with children from Barley Croft Primary School and Adam Cade (Chief Executive,

Student force for Sustainability). Information was also on hand from organisations such as the Energy Management Team, Severn Trent and VAL to name but a few. Visitors were also invited to complete a travel survey and were provided with a native tree to help counteract the carbon footprint caused by the event. Further information on the Sustainable Schools Agenda can be found on the web at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools).

### Did you know?

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools) is the official web site for the sustainable schools agenda and has a 'resource library' full of exciting activities for your school.

S3 - Sustainable Schools Self Evaluation Form - It's going to be part of your Ofsted inspection soon so why not get a head start and ask your EMAS officer for a pain free introduction.

## Schools' news

### Get On Your Bike!

A new look cycle training programme will be pedalling its way into an EMAS school near you! The first few schools to receive this exciting opportunity will be Linden Primary School, Montrose School and Catherine Junior School.

We will get round to see all the EMAS Schools, so hope to see you all enthusiastic and ready to jump onto your bikes!



### Princes Trust

Students at English Martyrs Catholic School have completed a garden makeover, including a birdbath, trellises and a beautiful willow sculpture of a dove. They designed, planned and carried the work themselves as part of the Princes Trust xl club program for students facing a range of difficulties at school. The Princes Trust provide grants of up to £1000 for 14 to 16 year olds: 0800 842 842. Tom Hare teaches willow sculpture: 07776 405990.



### Low Carbon Solutions 'School Food Challenge'

Reducing CO2 involves everyone and there are three key steps that we can all take to reduce our 'carbon food print'. Groundwork is running 3 competitions for 3 age groups:

- KS1 Grow your own - grow a plant successfully and them eat what you grow. Prize: a set of giant planters.
- KS2 Buy locally - put together a local food school menu. Prize: a local farm trip.
- KS3 Source seasonally - collect information to construct a local farming calendar. Prize: a school cookery workshop. Last entry 6th July 2007, for further details contact Sara on (0116) 222 0238

### EcoHouse tours

Shortly, each school will be receiving a new booking form for the Ecohouse tour and workshop. Please book as early as possible to ensure your date is available.