

To whom it may concern,

Supporting this project is an affirmation of support for our children's future, and the future of children to come. This is a project initiated by adults but which ultimately seeks to give youngsters the opportunity to voice their own concerns about climate change and their desire to continue having a similar spectrum of choices and outlooks as we have been lucky enough to enjoy ourselves in this technologically fast moving age. Every act of support will make a difference to the effectiveness of this awareness raising project, and we thank you in advance for reading this pack and considering what we hope will be your positive response.

Whatever your views about climate change, there is no doubt, as this summer's floods have made all too clear, that we face significant challenges in this area. **We wish to encourage youngsters to face this challenge with imagination**, hence the focus on the **Arts** as a way of expressing their hopes and fears. We also believe that this is a way to avoid the 'doom and gloom' approach. Instead, we want to establish that a creative response to such challenges often comes up with more original solutions, but also lifts the spirit. Hence, one of the main strands of this project is a series of arts and media competitions that focus on global warming, climate change, recycling and other concomitant issues as a stimulus for this creativity.

We hope you enjoy reading the pack and find a way to give our project your support. It has large ambitions – this is a global issue – but we have to start with local action to encourage people in the belief that every small change to how we live now that helps to improve our carbon footprint DOES make a difference.

DATES OF EVENT: Friday March 28th, Saturday March 29th, 2008

N.B. (Please find, as separate to this pack, the competitions poster)

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WHEN?

At the very end of next March, over the course of two days, a large number of local schools are getting together under the slogan *Act Local, Think Global* to raise awareness of the dangers of global warming as it could effect Tonbridge and its environs. We believe that when adults speak about this, the most pressing concern of the moment, they are often received with cynicism, so we want to create a forum whereby pupils (young people whose future is at stake) can find a voice which will be listened to. We do not intend the project to focus on the negative aspects of this issue, but rather to encourage what all individuals who live in this area can do NOW to make a difference.

HOW?

We propose to invite speakers of renown in this field and to encourage pupils from as many different local schools as possible, and others, to enter a number of arts' based competitions inspired by green and recycling issues. There will be a dance performance with choreography inspired by the issue, and we will create opportunities for discussion between the young and old about this vital threat to our future. We also intend to give recycling areas a more glamorous image by playing live music there during the two days. **Hopefully, the event will culminate in a candlelight parade up Tonbridge High Street, having encouraged the residents of Tonbridge to turn off their lights for an hour.** The parade itself will lead to an unplugged concert as a finale, a celebration of what we hope will have been achieved over the previous two days. During that time we will be setting up Skype connections with pupils who live in endangered areas around the world*.

WHY?

Our second slogan is *The Time for Excuses was Yesterday*. As long as individuals continue to believe that there is little they can do to change things, then Governments have a ready-made excuse for delaying or diluting their own actions. Other European countries, for example Germany & Scandinavia, are well ahead of us when it comes to dealing with this area of concern. Whereas in the UK every resident in a few small villages have collectively decided to change their carbon footprint for the better, in Germany, whole towns are working together to make a difference. It is time we caught up and we believe that Tonbridge, dominated as it is by a large number of schools, is an ideal place to put our ideas into action and to give our young people a powerful voice about this issue.

If there is any way in which you wish to help us or be involved, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact either

Mike Morrison (mim@tonbridge-school.org), or

Charlotte Lane (clane@tgs.kent.sch.uk) or

Gill Chadbon (ChadbonG@hillview.kent.sch.uk)

**The title *Canaries in a coal mine* comes from a statement made by an Inuit pupil when talking to a TGS pupil by Skype. She said that, due to climate change, she and her fellow Inuits felt like *Canaries in the Coalmine*...when the world finally did something about it – it would be too late for the survival of their tribe and culture.*

Canaries in a Coal Mine

Start Local, Think Global

Have you thought about how global warming will affect
Tonbridge area itself?

Are you concerned about global warming?

Do you believe that every one of us can do
something about it?

Next March, teachers from TGS, Hillview and Tonbridge
School have started planning two days of events to make
everyone in our area more aware of the real implications
of what we are doing to our planet and our children's
future.

We hope that every local school, business and
all of the community will want to take part.

This is your opportunity to show your support
and **INFLUENCE** what will happen next March.

Over the next 9 months, we believe that everyone can
work together and raise awareness
about this and other green issues in a
SIGNIFICANT way.

Exciting ideas have already been put forward:
Tonbridge turns out the lights for an hour as we celebrate a candlelit
processions up the high street, culminating in an unplugged concert in
the castle grounds.

Art, drama, dance, music, writing and film making competitions.

Keynote speakers with global reputations.

A centre from which people in threatened communities around the world
can be contacted and talked to using SKYPE.

BUT WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO SHAPE THE EVENT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR THE PROJECT?

CAN YOU DONATE A GREEN PRIZE FOR THE COMPETITIONS?

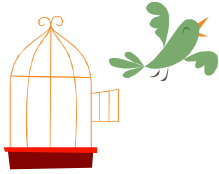
**WOULD YOUR BUSINESS LIKE TO PROMOTE WHAT YOU DO
TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO DISPLAY SOME PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTWORK OR
COMPETITION ENTRIES WITHIN YOUR BUSINESS WORKPLACE?**

The time for excuses was yesterday

"We feel like canaries in a coal mine" What an Inuit pupil in North Canada where their whole way of
life is being threatened by the melting icecaps said to a Tonbridge pupil in a recent exchange
conducted by SKYPE.

**CONTACT US FOR MORE
DETAILS OR TO REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST**
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CANARIES IN A COAL MINE*

An invitation to take part

ACT LOCAL - THINK GLOBAL

Have you thought about how global warming will affect the Tonbridge area itself?
Is your school concerned about global warming?
Do you believe that every one of us in every school can do something about it?

At the end of next March teachers from a large number of local Tonbridge schools have started planning two days of events to make everyone in our area more aware of the real implications of what we are doing to our planet, and thus our children's future.

We hope that eventually every local school will wish to take part.
This invitation is your opportunity to show your support,
and INFLUENCE what we will happen next March.

Over the next 9 months, we believe that pupils and teachers from many schools, working together, can raise awareness about this and other Green issues in a SIGNIFICANT way AND get people to ACT on that knowledge.

Exciting ideas have already been put forward:

- Tonbridge turns out the lights for an hour and we celebrate with a candlelight procession up the High Street, culminating in an unplugged concert in the Castle.
 - Art, Drama, Music, Writing and film making competitions.
 - Keynote speakers with global reputations.
- A centre from which people in threatened communities around the world can be contacted and talked to using Skype.
- TSC – Teenage/Senior Citizen discussion groups – the generations working together

But we need and want your ideas to shape and expand the eventual impact of the event.

If you wish to help in any way, then please contact either
Mike Morrison (mim@tonbridge-school.org)
Charlotte Lane (clane@tgs.kent.sch.uk)
Gill Chadbon (ChadbonG@hillview.kent.sch.uk)

THE TIME FOR EXCUSES WAS YESTERDAY

'We feel like Canaries in a Coal Mine'

What an Inuit pupil in Northern Canada (where their whole way of life is being threatened by the melting ice-caps) said to a Tonbridge pupil in a recent exchange conducted by Skype.



*A schools' driven project to increase awareness
of climate change and its implications*

POSSIBLE LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT/SUPPORT

1. MAJOR SPONSOR

**(potential to be the exclusive sponsor of the whole event
if the offer is sufficiently generous)**

This would involve helping the project with a significant financial contribution so as to pay for the expenses of speakers, and to employ a part time administrator to keep the momentum of the project moving forward and dealing with the day to day logistics of putting such an ambitious project together efficiently*.

2. SPONSORSHIP OF A SPECIFIC EVENT

This would involve underwriting the setting up of one of the major events of the project – a keynote speaker's fee and expenses, the expenses involved in setting up the unplugged concert at the Castle, or providing ALL the prizes for one of the main competition areas, or covering the printing costs of the climate change 'bible' we wish to print to encourage good practice.

3. CONTRIBUTING A SIGNIFICANT FIRST PRIZE FOR ONE OF THE COMPETITIONS

This would involve providing an appropriate (i.e. green), attractive prize for one of the major competitions – either a prize for a winning school, family or individual pupil

4. CONTRIBUTING A LESS VALUABLE PRIZE FOR ONE OF THE COMPETITIONS

This would involve providing a second or third level, appropriate prize for one of the competitions

N.B.: We think it is very important that all prizes are appropriate to the aims of the project encouraging energy saving, a lifestyle that is conscious of the importance of a low carbon footprint,

- The appointment of an administrator is vital as all other adults involved are full time teachers who will not be 'on secondment' to this project and will thus still be carrying out their other duties as teachers***



WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

1. *Our aim is to tackle this most pressing of all current issues **imaginatively and positively** – not by spreading doom and gloom but by stimulating pupils of all ages to believe that they can do something positive about climate change and its repercussions AND, as importantly, influence others (parents, families, friends) to do the same.*
2. *To ensure the project achieves its long term aims we intend creating a reader friendly ‘bible’ of practical ideas to tackle our individual carbon footprints in order to encourage everyone to realise that we can all, **individually**, do something significant to make the current situation better. This ‘bible’ will be distributed widely in the area and the frontispiece will acknowledge ALL companies and individuals who have sponsored and helped the project.*
3. *Major sponsor’s names will also be included in all future **correspondence and publicity** for this project.*
4. *Our aim is to announce early next term (mid September) what the prizes will be for the various competitions in order to give each competition its initial momentum and thus ensure that schools responds to the challenges of each competition with enthusiasm. **Your support will significantly enhance the pupils’ creativity.***
5. *At present we have the support of over a dozen local secondary and primary schools, but we know that number will rise significantly once the new academic year begins, as support for this project has been extremely encouraging. **Our aim is to involve every school within a ten mile radius of Tonbridge.***
6. *The Courier has already printed one article about the project but has pledged to continue advertising its progress.*
7. *Because this is an issue of such enormity, we intend to reach for the sky as far as keynote speakers are concerned to show just how important climate change is at this time. From September we intend that the pupils themselves become the mouthpiece of this project – **IT IS THEIR FUTURE WE ARE ENDEAVOURING TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN.***