DOHA COLLEGE IS OFFICIALLY A GREEN ECO-SCHOOL

Doha College has become the first school in Qatar to be awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. The school’s Eco Committee and staff officially hoisted the Green Flag to mark the occasion in a ceremony held at the school recently (Ed notes 30 August).

The Eco-Schools programme is delivered to 49,000 schools across 64 countries by NGOs in these countries, and coordinated from the Denmark based, Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Doha College is the first school to be awarded the coveted Eco-Schools status directly from FEE Head Office, under their new scheme for international schools. The award was granted following a vigorous inspection which looked into all the sustainable initiatives being run by the school.

“The Eco-Schools programme’s greatest achievement is arguably that it produces generation after generation of sustainably minded, environmentally conscious people by focusing on education throughout schools. These individual students will carry the behavioural patterns they learn under the auspices of Eco-Schools with them throughout life, in turn teaching the next generation environmental habits to make a difference.” explained Brid Conneely, International Director of Eco-Schools at FEE Head Office.

To participate in the Eco-Schools programme, each school must implement a seven step change process and empower their students to lead processes and actions wherever they can. Schools are inspected every second year to ensure environmental practices are maintained.

The Doha College Eco Committee included 30 students from across all secondary year groups and was led by Senior Prefect, Kane Bastick. The themes chosen by the school included paper recycling, plastic recycling and litter reduction. A number of projects were implemented including recycling bins throughout the whole school, a plastic bottle greenhouse, litter picking programmes, participation in the Earth Cup Challenge and most importantly the incorporation of environmental issues into the curriculum for all students.

Mr Brian Kerr, Geography teacher and one of the lead teachers for this initiative explained, “We are very proud to have achieved this Green Flag after two years of hard work from the students and staff. In particular, The Eco-Schools Eco Committee led by Senior Prefect, Kane
Bastik displayed excellent leadership skills and were true role models for promoting environmental practices around the school.”

Each year a new student committee will lead the Doha College Eco-Schools programme, Geography teacher and fellow lead teacher for the Eco-Schools programme Naomi Capewell, explained. “This year’s committee will be led by 6th formers Ross O’Donnell and Emily White. I am looking forward to working with them to continue the good work which has now been embedded into the school and to bring in exciting new initiatives. We hope that other schools in Qatar will follow our lead and enrol in the Eco-Schools programme, so that young people throughout the country will be encouraged to act in a sustainable manner. “

Daniel Schaffer, CEO of FEE, said: “I’d like to congratulate Doho College and all its students and teachers on their great achievement, and wish them continued success with their work in sustainability. We are delighted to have our first official international school with a Green Flag awarded from our Head Office.”

Committee members who were involved in the inspection –

Elena Straface
Alexandra Nightingale
Petra Darmawan
Chelsea Mabulay
Leena Mohamed
Tatiana Fairley
Tanisha Chopra
Shadi Abboud
Caitlyn Owen
Alicia Field
Kane Bastic
Lenny Heidl
Photo captions:

(L-R) Mr Paul Young, Senior Vice Principal Head of Secondary joins members of the Eco Committee and Eco Champions teachers Mr Brian Kerr and Mrs Naomi Capewell.

Flags on display at Doha College.
PRESS RELEASE

(L-R) Mr Paul Young, Senior Vice Principal Head of Secondary joins the new student leaders of the Eco Committee Ross O'Donnell and Emily White alongside Mr Brian Kerr and Mrs Naomi Capewell.

ENDS

Editor’s Notes

Doha College is one of the oldest British curriculum schools in Qatar providing a world class education for 1900 students, between the ages of 3 and 18, who represent over 75 nationalities.

Established in 1980, the college was originally opened to meet the demand for a British-style education, the institution continues to operate under the sponsorship of the British Embassy on a not-for-profit basis.

The school's vision, revised for 2016 is to enable personal growth, instill a passion for learning and create aspirational minds and our mission is to unlock our students’ full potential, develop their confidence, creativity and intellect in a safe and caring environment, empowering their contribution to global society.

PRESS ONLY:

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