

A team of TY students were successful today at The Eco Unesco Awards winning The section entitled "From Local to Global"

The project entitled "Make a Difference" tackles the issue of food security. It is a comparative study between two communities around the issue of food production and consumption.

The two communities Portmarnock and Hlalele / Roma in Lesotho despite their great distance are connected when it comes to food production and consumption.

Lesotho over the last 18 months has been on the brink of famine due to global warming drought and the failure of its national crop maize. The problem is compounded by the army worm which is attacking the maize crop by stripping its vegetation from the ground up.

The students over the last two years have supported the development of a market garden and a chicken coop / run at Hlalele High School and the harvesting of water from the schools roof and from the roofs at St. Joseph's hospital Roma. The objective was to provide a skill set for the production of food, increase sustainability. Hlalele HS has almost 60% of its students orphans and providing food is a challenge this year their market should meet this demand and in 2014 the garden should provide a commercial outlet and its income will pay for orphan school fees and equipment.

In PCS students have prepared a resource that will tackle food waste in our school. It consists of an interactive / touch screen presentation on the issue of food security and a DVD that illustrates the volume of food dumped in our school bins left on school tables half eaten. We waste one third of our food production in most western communities. In Britain it is valued at £23 billion annually. Furthermore students have begun to grow vegetables in an effort help the wider student population appreciate the challenges of food production and how easy it is to grow food in our environment in comparison to the challenges of producing food in Lesotho. With the help of Country Crest, (food growers in North County Dublin) it is hoped to introduce a seed potato to Lesotho that will help offset the failure of the maize crop to the army worm.

Congratulations is due to many TY students who have contributed to this project here in Portmarnock and in Lesotho:

In particular the following students deserve to be individually mentioned for documenting the project and delivering it to Eco Unesco judges. There were over 600 entries from all over Ireland so a great success and well done.

Sean Egan, Rihannon Curtis Davis, Ailbhe Twomey, Fionna Patterson, Amy Ryan, Matthew Shorthall, Eimear Ryan, Conor O'Keefe, Jennifer O'Donoghue, Conor Bradshaw, Lorcan Holden and Liam Dinan for all their hard work and dedicated