

Beechwood boys have 'Bikeability'

by Stephen King

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THREE Beechwood pupils have become the first Guernsey children to pass their Bikeability level two qualification.

It means the Year 6 students are now deemed capable of riding on their own on the roads, following a series of lessons at both levels one and two.

Bikeability is one of the newest cycle training programmes available. It is similar to cycling proficiency, focusing on practical skills and understanding today's roads.

There are three levels of the national programme and level two focuses on giving participants real cycling experience and the ability to deal with traffic.

It was set up by the UK government's Department for Transport and is also being offered to schools across Guernsey.

The final level-two lesson saw the pupils riding on the roads with an instructor.

Ollie Graham, Max Culverwell and Harry Duke, all



The three Beechwood pupils who are the first group of Guernsey children to take the Bikeability level two course and pass their final assessment. Left to right are: Ollie Graham, Harry Duke and Max Culverwell, all 10. (Picture by Tom Tardif, 17259458)

10, said it was great that they had passed and they all said they were really happy.

'I cycle to hockey a lot and now I just feel more confident,' Max said.

'We can now meet up with

friends on our bikes and do all sorts of things,' Ollie added.

The group of Year 6 boys

said the Bikeability process was great fun and it was a nice change to usual PE lessons – they also said they

went into the final test with confidence, but Max added that he still didn't like roundabouts.

'It was fun to get out on the roads and see all sorts of nature,' Ollie said.

Four more Beechwood students are due to be the next to achieve the qualification.

Amelie Le Prevost, Ellie Hartley and Amy Bell, all 10, and Dominic Bates, 11, have only their final lesson to do before they also can ride on the roads alone – they all said they were confident they would pass.

Dominic said he was looking forward to being able to cycle to school.

'I can't wait to cycle on my own,' Amelie added.

'My parents are normally at work, so I have got to cycle places myself, I am really excited to be able to,' Ellie said.

Beechwood's head teacher Jim Walton said they were aiming to get all Year 6 pupils to attempt level two to make sure they were safe on the roads.

'Hopefully we can get fewer cars on the roads and fewer cars in the car park.'