

# College eco-prefects show way on plastic use

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PUPILS at Elizabeth College Junior School have been learning how the small part they can play can make a big difference to ocean health generally.

In a special pupil-led assembly, four newly-appointed eco-prefects from Year 6 gave a presentation to classmates about single use plastic and why and how it should be stopped.

Single use plastic includes drink bottles, carrier bags, cling film food wrap, plastic cutlery, drinks straws and food packaging, which ends up in landfill or in the seas where it wreaks havoc on marine life.

'Water bottles are the worst for our environment as they take an incredible 450 years to degrade,' said Samuel Romer, 10.

Some 16m. plastic bottles are thrown away and not recycled every day in the UK. By 2025 the ocean is expected to contain one tonne of plastic for every three tonnes of fish and by 2050 more plastic than fish.

The eco-prefects and staff at the school are encouraging all pupils to avoid single use plastic where possible by, for example, bringing re-

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usable water bottles to school and drinking from the water fountain.

'We are using the motto Reduce, Reuse – reducing our use by avoiding single use plastics wherever we can and what we can't avoid using, we need to reuse or recycle,' said deputy head teacher Liz Bott.

'It's great to see the passion youngsters have for this issue and particularly powerful for our pupils to hear this information from their peers. They are learning good habits and hopefully passing them on to their families too.'

Plastic-Free Guernsey has welcomed the school's initiative. 'This is brilliant, we are hoping to encourage more of this type of thing, as it's so important to involve the children who can then inform their parents and grandparents, etc,' said a spokesman.

'Or, as Sir David Attenborough put it, "It's one world and it's in our care...We could actually do something about plastic right now, and I wish we would".'



Newly-appointed Year 6 eco prefects at Elizabeth College Junior School, left to right, George Harris, Sam Romer, Will Godfrey and Joshua Noyon.

(Picture by Nigel Baudains, 19859632)