



EMILY MCDONALD

AGE: 18 years old FROM: England

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: PROBLEM-SOLVING | LEADERSHIP | CITIZENSHIP | CONFIDENCE | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION

“Not only was it great to see my school investing in looking after the environment, leading the society at school benefitted me personally. I grew in confidence leading a team and delegating responsibilities. I could put forward ideas in a space I felt comfortable and not only have them heard but acted on by a group who were passionate about turning them into a reality.”

I founded the Bio-Eco Society at my school and this gave others the chance to join me in taking part in meaningful social action for the environment. I recruited students through school assemblies, chaired weekly meetings, and liaised with staff and external agencies in our main project to reinstate the school recycling system. I organised a waste audit and this highlighted the school was putting a lot of recyclable material in the general waste bins; I used this finding to make the case for the introduction of mixed recycling. We fundraised to get recycling bins in every classroom and made all staff and students aware of this new approach. I am really proud that the school now recycles and to see students taking responsibility!

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heard but acted on by a group who wanted to make a difference by turning them into a reality. I also got much more confident engaging other pupils and getting them involved and became more able to approach members of staff for help, which made a big difference when progress was being stalled by things out of our control.

I also ran a clothes swap to reduce the amount of clothing getting thrown away and raise awareness of the issues of fast fashion. I laid the groundwork for the society to continue having an impact, through an energy saving campaign.

Now a student at the University of Bristol, I continue to encourage students to consider the environment, volunteer in the community plus am a member of societies interested social justice causes; we can have an even greater impact collectively.

