



# NEWSLETTER

*Inspiring change in our local community*



**Fitzharrys  
School**



**John Mason School**



## The Youth Council Project; our first two years!

The Youth Council Project is a partnership between the Abingdon Learning Trust – consisting of Rush Common School, St Michaels School, John Mason School, Fitzharrys School - and Abingdon & Witney College. The group started in 2023 and since then we have undertaken multiple projects, including fundraisers for local charities, a suncream drive and a recycling & waste initiative. We aim to collaborate on projects that inspire change and benefit our local community.

We spent our first year focusing on waste and recycling in local areas around our schools and college. Aiming to do something positive for the community is always high on our agenda and students felt a review of the public bins on key routes between our Abingdon based schools/college was needed. The YCP spent time contacting local councils and landowners, which enabled them to produce some fantastic research projects. They then worked through the replies to see if we could influence any upgrades to current bins or suggest new bins.

Unfortunately, we haven't yet been successful with influencing changes - however, this remains on our agenda. We have taken some key tips from our research and had a very insightful meeting with a member of the waste team at the council, who came in to speak to the group about recycling and what happens to our waste.



In our second year, we started by developing a logo and slogan. We ran a competition for students from all schools to participate in, with the guidance of the college's fabulous marketing team, which we received 32 creative entries! The winner, Chloe Luck from Abingdon & Witney College, received a £50 Amazon Voucher. The YCP believed that a visual identity that represents the vision of our group was needed. Since then, the marketing team has included information about the YCP on their webpage ([Youth Council Project Webpage](#)).

***Did you know that in some areas 'nudges' are used? The YCP students felt this would be a fun way of encouraging students inside and outside of school/college to use the bins provided!***

# Fundraising!

Following on from that project, the group believed that a focus on raising money for charities was key. Students from each school, in cooperation with teachers, planned and organised individual fundraisers at each site.



Fitzharrys school organised a staff karaoke. At lunchtime, almost a dozen teachers and staff members demonstrated their singing (and sometimes dancing) skills in front of 200 students. The ambiance was electric, and many students sang along. Everyone was sad when it was over. The event allowed us to raise over £500 for the local charity carbon cutters. The charity ([Abingdon Carbon Cutters](#)) is a local response to climate change, and it focuses on issues relating to food, waste reduction, energy, education and transport.

## Welcome to the YCP!

We are very pleased to welcome St Michael's School who are joining us as part of the Abingdon Learning Trust in September 2025. We are looking forward to working with you!

Abingdon & Witney College collected food for the Abingdon Foodbank ([Abingdon Foodbank Website](#)), which was greatly received by them. We then realised that suncream was also needed. So, the YCP set up a suncream drive with the aim of collecting bottles of suncream in our settings which were donated to be included in the Foodbank summer parcels!



**Thank you to everyone who entered our logo competition!**



Rush Common Primary School organised an obstacle course for the students. The week before the Easter break, they carried out a fundraising project for Oxfordshire Mind ([Oxfordshire Mind Website](#)). The aim was to create an understanding of the link between physical exercise and positive mental health, the children very much enjoyed being put through their paces on the obstacle course. The response from parents was fantastic and they raised just over £2,000 for Oxfordshire Mind. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to such a worthwhile cause.

Thank you for reading our newsletter and thank you to those who participated in our fundraisers over the past few months. Our work will be updated on social media as we continue! If students wish to get involved in our project, please feel free to contact [student.voice@abingdon-witney.ac.uk](mailto:student.voice@abingdon-witney.ac.uk) for further information!

A huge THANK YOU to Jacob C from Fitzharrys School for taking on the task of creating our first YCP newsletter!