

Class Of Your Own – the Why, Who, What and How!

- Background
- The Eco Classroom
- The Virtual Classroom
- Taking Construction Commitments into School
- School FM through Eco Doorways
- Reaching Out – The Good, Bad and Ugly
- Eco Connections
- Sustainability for Teachers and Parents
- Social Media
- Bespoke

Background

Class Of Your Own are a group of like-minded, socially orientated construction professionals all determined to take real life experiences and opportunities right into the classroom.

By developing their natural interest in their own environments, Class Of Your Own programmes empower young people to lead on sustainability projects and assignments. They can learn the fundamentals of design, construction and engineering, and apply this knowledge through curriculum subjects.

Sustainability is a key feature of the Class Of Your Own series of collaborative programmes. As ‘good citizens’ we believe that young people can make positive contributions to their local, national and even global society simply by making educated choices in the way they live their lives and consequently, sustainable thinking for future generations becomes a way of life and not a series of targets and tick boxes. Students can not only influence their families and friends, but also businesses by impacting strategy and promoting genuinely accountable corporate social responsibility.

At Class Of Your Own, we firmly believe that young people have an exciting part to play in a new society of sustainable communities. As the workforce of tomorrow, we are giving them the attention they deserve today.

Approved Learning Providers

As an APL for Manchester City Council and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), you can be assured that we have gone through a rigorous process to offer relevant programmes which support current education policies and strategies.

Make Contact!

Contact us for more information:

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Web: www.classofyourown.com

Blog: <http://classofyourown.posterous.com/>

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Slideshare: www.slideshare.net/classofyourown

The Eco Classroom

Class of Your Own Limited provides a series of workshops entitled "A Class of Your Own" which introduce primary Y6 and secondary KS3-5 students to roles and responsibilities of an 'environmentally friendly' design company. Construction is not just about laying bricks and plastering. In line with the Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment, we inspire students to consider a professional future in construction by introducing them to the 'real life' personnel who deliver the workshops with first-hand knowledge and experience.

Students form a sustainable design company, choosing a range of management and technical roles, and all investigating ideas which would conclude in the design of a single stand alone Community Learning Resource - a classroom sized building with an external environment to complement that design. This resource would be a zero carbon, sustainably constructed design and would provide a facility to the school and its wider community where environmental and sustainability issues could be taught in line with cross curricular subjects, and the community would be encouraged and inspired to address and adopt green issues and lifestyles.

Some schools opt to further their own projects with us enabling students to have a very active involvement and see some of their ideas progress. They take on further roles of 'real life' professionals, not only as introduced in our first competitive workshop, but also as project managers, structural engineers, quantity surveyors, finance managers etc. again demonstrating the wide range of career opportunities in the field of construction and engineering. Students and staff work side by side with us to take a design right through to a completed stage, no matter how small or big the project. From gardens to recycled bike sheds to full size, free standing classrooms such as that at Accrington Academy.

The Virtual Classroom

Following a hugely successful visit to the United States when Accrington Academy children entered and won a special award for Architectural Design Concept, we are now piloting a programme of virtual construction. Working with Autodesk (www.autodesk.com), the world's leading design software company, students are using state of the art BIM (Building Information Modelling) software to create their own sustainable classroom and undertake sustainability performance assessments such as sun tracking, orientation and energy performance scenarios.

For training purposes, students base their initial model on that of the Accrington Academy Eco Classroom – the first live building project Class Of Your Own have undertaken with students. A live webcam on site will enable students to compare their efforts to the 'real thing' and ultimately compare the structural and environmental performance of a live and a virtual building. Then they are off on their own, designing, costing and virtually building their own amazing structures – a state of the art school, a futuristic sport stadium, a new Houses of Parliament! Through BIM, they can see their ideas come to life....

If you are interested in this programme, please register at ideas@classofyourown.com using subject 'COYO Programme for Design'.

Taking Construction Commitments into School

Aligned to the 2012 Olympic development, Construction Commitments cover six principles through which the construction industry is endeavouring to achieve a better industry and achieve best practice. The Construction Commitments bring together the six key areas vital to delivering construction projects on time, safely and to budget.

Our programme introduces the commitments to students as part of the Eco Classroom programme, providing applied learning towards project management of their own physical or virtual building. This approach easily demonstrates that construction is not limited to crafts and trades but can be exciting for many professional disciplines.

Students develop a set of documents that will establish the ethos, values and principles through which the project will be managed by their construction partners. Indeed the students develop their own Value Management tree, their PQQ for contractor selection, sustainable construction plan, their health and safety induction and a project charter, through which live eco-classroom construction projects will be led by students and signed by all project members

School Facility Management through the Eco Doorways

The 'Eight Doorways' from the Sustainable Schools National Framework assists schools to understand how they can actively promote sustainability through a commitment of caring for oneself, one's community and one's environment. Aligned to the framework, our own Eco Doorways programme allows students to take responsibility for their own school's performance holistically, addressing issues through the following themes:

- Food and Drink
- Energy and Water
- Travel and Traffic
- Purchasing and Waste
- Buildings and Grounds
- Inclusion and Participation
- Local Well Being
- Global Dimension

Students develop a Good, Bad and Ugly current state report which covers the Doorways and provides students with an understanding of the wider facilities management aspects of managing a school. The school receives an action report that demonstrates real engagement with the students.

Reaching Out – The Good, Bad and Ugly

School children are the next generation that an organisation's sustainability policy and approach seek to protect. In addition, organisations typically employ members of a school's wider community within their offices/sites in the immediate locality of any school. Students are important to any organisation's success.

Our Good, Bad and Ugly programme enable students, as representatives of future generations, to assess an organisation's sustainability strategy and performance in handing over an environment that does not compromise their own futures.

Young people (typically Year 7-8) will assess, assist and support a local business to address, review and develop their sustainability practices and corporate social responsibilities through a programme of assessment, acknowledgement and action. Schools are 'partnered' with companies intent on developing long term relationships.

Organisations will receive a report, endorsement and action plan from the students, but most importantly, will be able to demonstrate that they really are working with the next generation, *for* the next generation.

Eco Connections

Our Connections programme is aimed at young people who fall, or are in danger of falling into, the NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training Schemes) 'category', and typically those who need an alternative way of learning outside the traditional classroom base.

Through a series of engaging one day per week sessions over a twelve week period, small groups of young people will follow the themes of sustainability and learn about leadership and management, design, measurement, media and presentation, ultimately coordinating their own event to showcase their new found skills. A number of work experience placements may be available to these students on successful completion of the course.

Sustainability for Teachers and Parents

Our workshops reinforce each theme of the Eight Doorways agenda through collaborative student activities. We believe that young people can only succeed if their actions are supported by a 'whole school' commitment from senior management, teachers, governors and parents. We are able to provide a range of activities and training sessions in order that opportunities can be easily identified to promote meaningful inclusion in the curriculum throughout Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education.

We are supporting North West Sustainable Schools through promotion and provision of resources to assist teachers in classroom sessions, bringing the significance of climate change to life and demonstrating to students that that they each have an important role to play in helping to protect the environment.

Social Media

We see the use of social media, such as blogging and Twitter, as vital communication tools in promoting good practice and case studies related to sustainability. As such, it is a theme that runs through our programmes.

Bespoke

We offer a wide range of sustainability, built environment and improvement skills facilitated support, providing bespoke sessions or programmes, all based around our values of student engagement.

Talk to us about your ideas, and let us develop a workshop for you! Please contact alison@classofyourown.com to arrange a meeting at your own convenience. We like face to face at Class Of your Own – and it's the first stage of getting to know you! If an 'out of hours' appointment is more appropriate, just let us know....we appreciate how busy you are during the school day.