

Moate CS TY Biology project.... A classroom outside

From a student's perspective....

Hi, I'm Zain Kenny. I'm one of the students taking part in the polytunnel project in the school. When I started TY Biology I had no idea we would be doing something this fun at all. A very practical and exciting project that our whole class would be working on. This outdoor classroom was going to have a variety of vegetables that we would choose and grow, then use them to make vegetable juices and cook healthy meals with them in the school kitchen. The hardest task in this project was probably filling the plant boxes with mushroom compost and pig manure because of the smell mainly. The whole idea was to teach us more about organic food and its differences and their benefits to genetically modified and store bought vegetables. I think this project will encourage us to plant our own vegetables, eat more organic foods at home and when we are older- for the sake of our health. We are enjoying it a lot – it is great craic.



From Ms. Alannah O'Shea (the teacher's) perspective...

I am really delighted with the enthusiasm of the students and their attitudes to health, eating well and growing their own organic food. They are interested in understanding the principles that underpin organic gardening. When we analysed where their bought fruit and vegetables originated from at home we saw examples of organic carrots coming from Italy – that's a 2618 Km journey to their kitchen table versus taking a few steps into their back garden for their own organically grown ones. This has become a much wider school project as we undertake various tasks such as recycling waste from the Home-Ec kitchens to create compost. One group used available materials to make a scarecrow for our outdoor garden and with the help of the Woodwork teacher who made the structure. We are also

upcycling any containers we can find to grow more vegetable and fruit in. The students are already cooking healthy meals using fresh vegetables. The whole ethos of this living classroom is tied into our school's accolade of being a Health Promoting School and we are currently working with our Green Schools supporting teacher and committee to divert into bio-diversity in our school to further support our Green Flags awards.

Names on Photo:

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