

Newsletter

Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing Project for West Midlands Schools

JAN 2023

REFLECTIONS

by Sarah Atkins

Happy New Year! As we start a New Year it's a good time to reflect on where we have come from and where we are going. It's a timely moment in the calendar to pause and take stock of the progress we have made so far, the challenges we have faced along the way and what needs to be done next. At the end of this month, we will be asking you to evaluate the progress you have made as a school in embedding CLOtC in your school and considering the impact nature connectedness interventions have made on your pupils' wellbeing.

The evaluation phase brings with it a reminder that though you will pause and reflect on your achievements as part of the Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing project the next phase of sustaining and building on those achievements is equally as important for the students and communities you serve. This project's evaluation is the springboard to what happens next.



ONLINE DROP-IN

Thursday 26 Jan 2023
3:45pm - 4:45pm

Come along with your questions, we'll be on hand to give advice. This is also a great opportunity for schools to come together and share ideas or good practice.

[BOOK NOW](#)

CLOtC National Conference

Thursday 2nd March 2023
West Midland Safari Park



This event is a great opportunity to network with other schools on the project, and share experiences and achievements.

It is also an opportunity to hear from inspiring speakers, LOtC Gold Mark schools and LOtC Quality Badge holders across the country who are making real differences to young peoples' lives through LOtC.

As school being mentored as part of this Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing project we are giving you 2 free tickets to the conference. Have you booked your place yet?

**BOOK YOUR TWO
FREE PLACES**

CASE STUDY

St Joseph's Catholic Primary
School, Walsall



Kathleen Hinton, Headteacher at St Joseph's, is an inspiring and motivated leader who recognises how important LOtC is for the students and communities that the school serves.

She has used the Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing project to pick up ideas from others and develop her own staff team's confidence in delivering LOtC. Click here to learn more about some of changes she has implemented.

READ MORE

CANAL & RIVER TRUST UPDATE

By David Wilkinson



The new year starts with a packed calendar of school bookings and the happy news that we are able to offer additional workshop sessions in March 2023 due to an extension from our project funders. That means there is one more chance to secure your school a slot with our Hands on Nature workshops (use the keyword 'WWW Project Wildlife Workshop' in the 'other information' section) or a visit to your local canal.

Availability is strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis so if you would like a visit to support outdoor learning in March don't hesitate to get in touch.

NATURE CONNECTEDNESS

Every day activity ideas



Nature never takes a pause and so even through these dark winter months we can continue to bring both our own and our students' attention to the natural world around us.

Take a few moments to reflect on the opportunities you have provided for your students to connect with nature as part of this project. How did they react to these? Have you noticed any changes in behaviours or well-being?

[READ MORE](#)

REMINDERS

Have you completed your survey?



Have you completed your survey and submitted your action plan?

If you haven't already, please complete and return the pre-evaluation surveys (staff and students) and action plans as soon as possible.

If you would like a digital version that you can print out, please get in touch:
projects@lotc.org.uk

[STAFF SURVEY](#)

[STUDENT SURVEY](#)

EVENTS COMING UP

- 17 Jan [Online Water Safety Education for Primary Schools](#)
- 26 Jan [Drop In](#)
- 31 Jan [Face-to-face Training: Using your school grounds, Coventry](#)
- 2 Feb [Face-to-face Training: Using your school grounds - Staffordshire](#)
- 9 Feb [Face-to-face Training: Using your school grounds, Sandwell](#)