



2024 Autumn Newsletter

Let's Help Schools Go Greener

Welcome!

A warm welcome to our first newsletter produced for the schools that enter our annual gardening competition. We are aiming to send out a newsletter for each school term, sharing updates on key dates and other hot topics that we know will interest your gardening teams. Some of the information shared in this edition covers topics already raised by some of you. Let's start with basic information for our 2025 competition....

Dates for your diary

3 rd February 2025	Competition Launch
24 th May 2025	Entry Deadline
4 th – 20 th June 2025	Judging
1 st July 2025	Competition Awards Ceremony

School Competition Awards

Overall Winner	Trophy, plus £100 prize
Most Improved Garden	Trophy, plus £50 prize
Best Wildlife Garden	Trophy, plus £50 prize
Best Vegetable Garden	Trophy, plus £50 prize
Best 1st Time Entry	Trophy, plus £50 prize

Twilight Sessions

This academic year we are running our Twilight Sessions again, to help you with your planning and other useful ideas. We will be sending out the booking form in November, and plan to hold the event in February 2025. More to come, so keep a look out!

Grants

We know that budgets are a major challenge for some of you, and here are some useful links for you where grants available for School Gardening. Get in to Win!

Surrey Garden Trust provide grants, although the deadline for application is 30th September. It may be too late for this year for you, but worth taking note of this for future funding applications.



Further information and the application form can be found at <https://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/schools>

Other grants are available from SCC -Small Community Projects Fund. <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund>

RHS School Gardening

There is a wealth of gardening information for schools provided by the RHS, and all schools can register for membership for free to receive a welcome pack containing seed and growing resources.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/register>

The RHS School Gardening website also provides support for schools with excellent advice and learning resources, from their Campaign for School Gardening pages. This includes access to the following:

- Back-to-School to-do List
- Free eLearning courses for teachers
- How to fund your school garden (video)
- Many reference resources for teachers (activities, information sheets, lesson plans)
- Monthly gardening newsletters with growing tips and inspiration for projects.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk>

Schools can also book free guided or self-guided tours of RHS Gardens, but these are very popular and should be booked well in advance.

Good Luck!

If you've already decided to enter our 2025 Competition, just reply YES to this email and our Schools Team will be in touch to confirm your entry. In the meantime, don't forget to plant your spring bulbs now!

