



Discovering how valuable household waste can be!

On Thursday a group of very lucky children in Form IV were given a tour of the Energy from Waste Facility at Greatmoor.

On arrival, it was clear that something smelly was going on! They discovered the facility was not interested in your food or garden waste, or how much recycling you created. But it is ready and waiting to make the most of all your household waste. This waste arrives in juggernauts and bin lorries from all over the county and some by train from London. Whilst for many years this rubbish was buried underground, here at Greatmoor they've found a better way of dealing with it. The children were shocked to hear the figures of how much waste passes through the site but considerably more impressed with what comes out of it. Greatmoor takes in 900 tons of waste a day, the same in weight as 150 elephants or 600 medium sized cars. Incredibly, the site generates enough electricity to power 36,000 houses, that's about six Brackleys. So how do they do it?

The children listened carefully to how the electricity is generated and how Greatmoor are trying to use every by product. From the ash to the gases produced, they are trying to cut down on what is being released into the environment. During the tour of the facility, the children were fascinated by the claw that grabbed the waste and placed it in the hopper ready for burning. We were all staggered by the heat generated by the fire as we looked through the viewing window. Finally, we all felt very small as we stood below the huge cooling fans. We certainly all came away with a greater awareness of why we should try to create less waste. A huge thank you to Jez Elkin the Waste Awareness and Education Manager for such an interesting Discovery Lecture.

Report by Verity Sanders

