



Rotary
Chelwood Bridge



Dear Parents and Carers

Chew Valley School has had a long-term association with The Chelwood Bridge Rotary Club. The club has been supportive in many ways, providing their members free of charge to support many of the extra-curricular activities.

Chelwood Bridge have also funded two students per year to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award scheme. This multi-year relationship has exposed two students per year to a full week on Exmoor or the Brecon Beacons. All those who have participated have described it as transformational for their life skills development.

We are now jointly embarking on a new initiative!

Climate change has become a major issue for us all, but it is quite critical for all the age groups passing through the school. That is why the school has a Climate Action Team that meet every week to help students focus and feel they can make a contribution to tackling it.

We propose setting up an Interact Club within the school that we would sponsor, specifically to deal with Climate Change. Interact Clubs were introduced by Rotary International to enable children between the age of 12 and 18 to adopt Rotary principles and there are some 4,500 such clubs worldwide.

The difference in this proposal is that our Roteract Club should be focussed wholly on the climate challenge.

We believe such a club would be a world 'first' and the students have voted to become involved in this project, which would dovetail into our existing Climate Action Team activities where every fourth weekly meeting would be an Interact Club meeting. Interact Clubs are also recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

This could open up climate initiative activities to a wider environment beyond the school and could interact with other Rotary Interact Clubs, both in the UK and overseas, but focussed entirely on the climate challenge. It could also pave the way for the school to secure Rotary grants to perhaps assist in larger projects. Rotary International have so far donated \$18m towards the global resolution of the climate challenge during the last year.

The students see climate as the problem they face and 'net zero' as the solution. We are, therefore, naming the club The Chew Valley Interact Net Zero Club. This is the first time ever that such a club has been set up to focus solely on the climate challenge.

We are sharing this development with you as you may wish to encourage your child or children to participate in this initiative.

Yours sincerely

Martin Hedges