

Only Rain Down the Drain education toolkit launches in Dorset

An exciting new toolkit for secondary school teachers has been launched by community campaign Litter Free Coast and Sea and Bournemouth Borough Council.

The toolkit, which links to the Council's wider 'Only Rain Down the Drain' project with businesses in Bournemouth town centre, aims to give students a new way of looking at science while benefiting water quality in the Bourne Stream at the same time.

The Bourne Stream, which flows out to the sea beneath the iconic Bournemouth Pier, is the recipient of many of the town centre's surface drains and consequently will benefit from businesses and residents being better informed as to what should go down which drain.

Litter Free Coast and Sea co-ordinator Natalie Poulter said 'it's a common misconception that water washed down our street drains is treated before it flows into our rivers- it's often not the case. It's not just the Bourne, but all of our rivers and the wider coast and sea which will benefit from students learning more about how our drainage systems work. Our new online resources are full of tips and suggested activities to bring the curriculum alive for year 9 students, using real world examples and linking in to topics covered in the wider curriculum. We hope students will feel empowered to take home what they learn through these sessions and spread the message among their friends and family too.'

Cllr David Smith, Bournemouth Borough Council Cabinet member for Planning and Environment added "Bournemouth has rightly built its reputation and economy on award-winning beaches and excellent water quality. It's important that we all work hard together to maintain that into the future and improve it even further where we can. The 'Only Rain Down the Drain' project can help us work together as a community to achieve real improvements. This education toolkit is a great way to get young people involved whilst meeting the needs of the National Curriculum."

Litter Free Coast and Sea are holding a free after-school event for Year 9 teachers to explore the new toolkit at Bournemouth University on 29th June. The event will have with demonstrations and opportunities to share ideas for integrating the lessons into broader schemes of work. For more information about the toolkit & teachers' event, and to book a place, please visit litterfreecoastandsea.co.uk/education-providers

Notes to editors

'Only Rain Down The Drain' is a campaign in Bournemouth to remind people that nothing other than rain water should go down the drains in the street.

Litter Free Coast and Sea is an on-going campaign to reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts of marine and beach litter, and improve and maintain bathing water quality along the Dorset and East Devon coast by preventing litter from getting to our coast in the first place. It is supported and promoted by over 500 local organisations and individuals up and down the coast. All supporters want a litter free coast and sea, act in ways that will help achieve this and encourage other people to do so.