

Pupils Clean up the Coast

A group of Year 10 pupils from Dyffryn Taf School have been working with Keep Wales Tidy on a 'Clean Coasts Project'. The group had expressed an interest in doing something to help the local environment and the idea of cleaning an area of their local coastline appealed to them. Phil Davies from Keep Wales Tidy was invited to the school to speak to the group and tell them a bit more about the work involved. He was able to show them photos of other projects and answer their questions, which generated even more interest amongst the group.

The group decided to work on the beaches at Pendine and Morfa Bychan, as these are the beaches nearest to the school, where many of them go in the summer. The group were awarded a grant to purchase the equipment needed for the project and after a safety briefing with Phil began work last week.

During the first two sessions the group worked as a team and in just 2 hours they managed to clear 20 bin-bags of litter from the beach at Pendine. With the help of Phil Davies they also managed to clear several large items of rubbish from the rocky area at the back of the beach including several large bundles of fishing net and rope. This activity gives the group a worthwhile practical activity they can all take part in. It gives them a sense of achievement knowing that they are helping their local community and the environment.

They will carryout regular beach cleaning sessions during the coming weeks.

"It was good to do something for the community and make the beaches look cleaner ready for the summer. We were quite surprised at how much litter we collected" said Martin Thomas a member of the group.

"We enjoyed working with Phil from Keep Wales Tidy and he has taught us a lot about looking after the environment" said Simon Merriman.

This project will be undertaken by pupils each year.